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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE Italians are making it clear enough what they want, and that with a moderation and steadfastness which have added much to their reputation. They are persistently hostile to any return of their potentates; anxious to avail themselves of Sardinia, as the only Power amongst them where constitutionalism has got a sure footing; and for the rest they trust to time and the future. What will the French Emperor do? That is the great question of the day. He is the oracle whom all consult—the potentate wanting his monarchy, the people wanting its freedom.

Were one to judge by appearances, the French Emperor is inclined to give Italy fair play. And it is his best policy. If he accepts the popular voice everywhere, he leaves the responsibility of the future in the people's own hands, and retains at once the glory of victory and that of moderation. He will not have done all that was expected, but he will have done much; and, under a confederated Italy, the Austrian government of Venice will be modified by the other States, in spite of itself. Italian nationality may then strengthen by the mere process of time, till some other combination makes the final deliverance of the country from foreigners possible. But if, instead of a moderate policy of this kind, the Emperor fulfils the predictions of his enemies by such an obvious piece of selfishness as setting up a Bonapartist dynasty, he will at once taint his past and trouble his future. All that was said against his motives for the war will be proved true; he will be offending at once legitimacy and the movement. Indeed, we cannot fancy the great Powers accepting such a result with any patience; for it would be simply a substitution of French for Austrian influence in the peninsula, resolving none of its difficulties, and perpetually threatening the world with disturbance from the jealousies which it would create. Let us hope, however, that even the mob will not be gulled into favouring such a project; and, indeed, there are signs that Prince Napoleon's profound unpopularity will disappoint the whole scheme. It is lucky that a

disagreeable project happens to be embodied in an unpopular personage.

While the round game of Italian politics goes restlessly on—and as yet no mortal can predict who will get the pool—other symptoms are more favourable to the prospects of Europe. The amnesty has been well received. It is true that Victor Hugo and Louis Blanc cannot be expected to return under, and so to recognise, a Government which they believe to have been established by force and fraud. But the mass of exiles will go back, and the domestic aspect of the change is cheerful and welcome. The press, also, has had a sop thrown to it; and all such recognitions of the principles of liberty ought to be fairly acknowledged. Napoleon shows several signs of a disposition to win better opinions from Europe, and of course ought to be met by Europe halfway. When are we to know the real meaning and extent of the disarmament? There is still an amount of heat in the political atmosphere—as witness the tone of Belgium and Germany—which may any day produce danger. The tone of the French press about Antwerp is not agreeable, and they discuss our Indian difficulties, also, in anything but an amicable spirit. A year or two of this kind of thing—accompanied naturally by “preparations” more or less meaning—would land Europe in a war. It is difficult already to see where our expenditure is to end. Why not let the two nations come to a fair explanation and understanding, and be done with this miserable mixture of hypocritical cordiality and unfriendly suspicion?

At home we have only one public question of real interest—the “strike”—which assumes the character of a civil war between men and masters all over the country. The first impression of the public was hostile to the men, and they are certainly wrong in the fundamental position—the position that labour is to be entitled to determine its own hours and wages; but, on the other hand, there are many impartial people who cannot approve the whole conduct of the masters. They have a right to combine, of course, and such a measure is absolutely neces-

sary; but have they a right to make every man who enters their employ tie himself up from joining associations, some of the objects of which are harmless and beneficial? This is making war to the knife. It is complicating the position, and making worse what was bad enough before. How the “strike” will end is uncertain. The men seem resolute, there is a good deal of help coming in, and obstinacy can do much even against hunger, and in spite of the additional difficulty that the directors of the “strike” don't seem to manage their various details well. In the natural course of things the men would have to give in; but this particular “strike” has attracted so much attention that public opinion will probably force a compromise upon both parties before matters get very desperate. Let it go far enough, and society will feel its effects for years. Stop it in time, and we shall escape that prolonged bitterness of feeling between class and class, of which there is too much already, and which will assuredly have evil political consequences some day. While on this point we cannot help remarking the characteristic indifference of our politicians in the affair. Of course it is no business of Government to interfere; but what are statesmen for if they have no advice to give in a crisis quite as important as any foreign question on which everybody volunteers an opinion at once? Where are our social science authorities? Where are our economical luminaries? Arbitration has been proposed in the matter, and we sincerely hope to see it tried. Why not refer the question to a committee of men of the stamp and character of Mr. Mill—known authorities on economics and known friends of the working-classes at the same time? The question involves the whole relation of capitalist and workman, and deserves a “conference,” or “congress,” quite as much as the Italian question. Both parties, however, will have something to yield. And we warn the working-men, apropos of the whole subject, that they must moderate their general tone in dealing with it. Labour has unquestionable rights, and there is a particular disposition to recognise them among our modern publicists and speculators.



THE SOIRÉE TO MR. COBDEN AT ROCHDALE.

But, after all, where men work together somebody must be master. Capital is created by labour of course, but where the power is there the Government must be, and it is not for the instruments by which a system is carried on to dominate over that system. The power of capital has its legitimate side, as well as its ugly aspect. It represents the skill and energy, the best and noblest part of the general industry of the country; and its supremacy in matters of business is as natural as the ascendancy of brains and superiority in any other matters—in politics, for instance, or in art. So simple a truth ought to be as notorious as it is unquestionable, and virtually men feel its significance at every step. But from the kind of talk one hears amongst the working-classes one would fancy that the whole operation of capital, instead of being a law of nature, was an imposture of society. From this springs that over-confidence in the right of everything proposed by their own agents which the men on strike have shown this time, and which makes great part of the difficulty of getting up a friendly reconciliation.

THE SOIREE TO MR. COBDEN.

LAST week we gave a full report of the proceedings at the soirée, given to Mr. Cobden at Rochdale; this week we present our readers with an illustration of that event. Since then Mr. Cobden has met the non-electors of the borough, in the same marquee. The admission was free and the place was densely packed by an audience mainly if not entirely composed of working men. Mr. Bright and Mr. Siaman Crawford were present, and the Mayor again occupied the chair. Mr. Cobden's speech, which was on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, was greatly cheered throughout. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Crawford and Mr. Bright, who expounded the same text.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of Wednesday contains the following:—

The Emperor having ordered that the army be reduced from a war to a peace footing, the Minister of War has given orders that from the 20th of September those men should return to their homes whose term of service expires in 1859. Moreover, furloughs of three months will be allowed to those who are in that class of exceptional cases provided for by the statute of 1832, and the same has also been granted to the men who can prove that they are indispensable for the support of their families.

By Imperial decree Marshal Magnan is appointed to command the 1st military arrondissement at Paris; Marshal de M'Mahon the 2nd, at Lille; Marshal Canrobert the 3rd, at Nancy; Marshal de Castellane the 4th, at Lyons; Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers the 5th, at Tours; Marshal Niel the 6th, at Toulouse; Brigadier General E. de Martimprey the 7th, at Algiers. It will be observed that the military provinces of France are thus increased from five to seven. A statement in the *Moniteur* explains this augmentation as having been solely adopted from the desire to form a more equal division of the forces of the Empire.

The French Ambassador to the Papal Government lately visited Paris to confer with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the subject of the reforms which the Pope is called upon to effect in his temporal Government.

We learn that the amnesty has produced a favourable impression in Paris. It is generally believed that the measure proposed by the Emperor himself encountered a most strenuous opposition in the Privy Council.

PRUSSIA.

The Prince Regent left Berlin on Monday evening for Ostend. The *Gazette d'Elberfeld* says it has reason to know that Lord John Russell has addressed a new despatch to Lord Bloomfield, Minister of England to Berlin, expressing a wish to see established a complete accord between the two Cabinets on all the present questions of European politics. The same journal assures us that the understanding between Prussia and Russia is perhaps still more intimate.

RUSSIA.

On the 20th of September the Hereditary Grand Duke will enter his sixteenth year, and, according to the laws of the Empire, will attain his majority, take part in the deliberations of the Council of the Empire, and be present at the Councils of Ministers. It is believed that on that day the general emancipation of the serfs of Russia will be proclaimed. The Grand Duke Constantine is to return to St. Petersburg for the occasion.

We receive information from different quarters that the Russian Government is striving, might and main, to bring about a congress of the European Powers for the regulation of many more matters than the Italian question. It is stated that on the eve of the late war the French Government, in return for the promise of assistance which it received from Russia, pledged itself to summon the Powers of Europe to a congress at the conclusion of the war. The object of Russia in urging this measure is, perhaps, to bring the Eastern question forward once more. The *Invalide Russe*, a semi-official journal, boldly advocates another consultation on the "sick man."

At Cronstadt never was there such great activity amongst the vessels, both of commerce and of war, as at present. The number of the former which arrive or leave exceeds anything seen during the last few years, and many of the vessels are screws.

AUSTRIA.

The Ministerial crisis in Austria is at an end. A Cabinet has been formed under the presidency of Count Rechberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Baron Hubner is appointed Minister of Police; Count Golochowski (late Governor of Galicia) Minister of the Interior. Councillor (Gehelmrath) Kempen von Fichtenstamm, Chief of the Police, is dismissed with a pension. Baron Bach, formerly Minister of the Interior, has been appointed Ambassador to Rome. The Ministry of Commerce is entirely dissolved. Its duties are divided between the Ministries of the Interior, Exterior, and Finance.

The objects which occupy the attention of the Superior Council of Austria, in the way of internal reform, are—first, the finances, then the free exercise of the Protestant religion, the regulation of Jewish affairs, and the regulation of municipalities. The subject of the representation of the provinces is reserved for the present.

ITALY.

The deputation appointed to present to the King of Sardinia a medal, struck by a private society, in commemoration of the words pronounced by his Majesty on his opening Parliament on the 10th of January last, had an audience on the 20th inst. His Majesty's words were, "We are not insensible to the cry of grief which we hear from every part of Italy." To the deputation his Majesty said:—

I thank you for your beautiful present. Ever since it has been in my power I have consecrated my efforts to the great national cause. I have it constantly before my mind—I live for it, and am ready to die for it. Difficulties and misfortunes arise which must be surmounted, and they certainly will, for I have witnessed the courage and discipline of which the Italians are capable. Under present circumstances it has been impossible to go further, as I might have wished. In the midst of past sorrows I have found great consolation in seeing that the Italians have understood me, and have not entertained a doubt concerning me. The masses, blinded by excessive enthusiasm, are sometimes led astray. I might have pardoned such false steps, but I repeat that I have nothing to reproach them with. It seems incredible that some countries, that are unfavourable to us, do not, or will not, believe that there is nothing obscure or insidious in my policy. Frankness and straightforwardness are its companions. Perhaps it is the going straight to the object in view that creates displeasure. The Italian question is very clear, and it is no doubt on that account that they will not understand it. The union, perfect order, and wisdom which the people of Tuscany, the Duchies, and the Romagna now display are admirable. I certainly did not think that Italy was incapable of acting so,

still the spectacle of such an attitude affords me great pleasure. Have, therefore, faith in me, gentlemen, and be assured that now, as well as in future, I shall do everything in my power to promote the welfare of Italy.

The King of Sardinia has directed that 12,000 fr. out of his privy purse shall be distributed to the poor families of Milan, especially those who had one of their number wounded or killed during the war.

The embarkation at Naples of the fourth regiment of Swiss troops has been effected in perfect order: they previously received the whole pay due to them. Moreover, the disbanded troops receive a retiring pension, according to a decree of the late King.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

A letter from Constantinople of the 7th says:—"The affairs of the Kurdistan are very grave, and Omer Pacha, Governor of the Irak Arabi, has thought it necessary to leave Bagdad at the head of three battalions of infantry, of a squadron of regular cavalry, and of a detachment of artillery, to proceed to Suleimanieh, which is to form the basis of his operations. Great agitation prevails. Persia possesses part of Kurdistan, and at Constantinople she is accused of keeping up the agitation."

A sinking fund has been founded at Constantinople, to promote the gradual extinction of the floating debts of the Ottoman Porte.

The *Journal de Constantinople* of the 17th says:—"M. de Lesseps will go to England in order to remove the obstacles by which the English Government opposes the Suez Canal." We have no doubt M. Lesseps hopes he may succeed.

BELGIUM.

In the Saturday sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the project of law on the fortifications of Antwerp was agreed to. There were 106 members present, of whom fifty-seven voted for, and forty-two against, the project. Seven members abstained from giving their votes.

AMERICA.

Senator Douglas, one of the most prominent of the democratic candidates for the Presidency, has written a letter, or rather published a political manifesto, on the subjects of naturalisation and the reopening of the African slave trade. The letter is in substance as follows:—

There can be no difference in the degrees of protection accorded by Government to native and naturalised citizens. Our Constitution recognises no difference in this respect. If a person can expatriate himself from a foreign Government and swear allegiance to this, and still owe anything to the foreign Power, he is in this singular and incredible predicament of owing allegiance to two countries without being entitled to the protection of either. He would accord the fullest protection to all our citizens. In the convention the Constitution was a creature of compromise, and the African slave trade was the subject. South Carolina and Georgia wished to continue it; Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York wished it terminated; New England was passive in the matter. South Carolina and Georgia finally carried their point of continuance till the year 1808, with the understanding that it should then end. It, therefore, became the vital compromise of their instrument, and must be held as sacred as the instrument itself.

It was reported at Washington that a cargo of Africans had been landed on the coast of Florida, near Tampa. As soon as the landing was effected the vessel was fired and abandoned.

A numerous body of the congressional constituents of Mr. Sickles had signed an address calling upon him to resign his seat in Congress.

INDIA.

THE MILITARY EXODUS.

LORD CANNING'S recent general order, giving to the European troops that enlisted to serve the defunct Company an option of taking their discharge, has been attended with results which could hardly have been anticipated. It is stated that from 8000 to 10,000 men will avail themselves of the permission accorded to them of retiring from the service and returning to England. We cannot but hope that this estimate is placed too high.

In the Bengal army there are six regiments of European infantry and five of European cavalry, consisting altogether of about 9952 men. Of these it is stated that at Delhi 360 men have claimed their discharge; at Gwalior, upwards of 700 men; at Goojah, 93 men; at Allahabad, according to one account, 600 men, according to another, 750 men; and at Berhampore, 800 men. The regiment (the 5th) may for the present be considered as extinct for military service. Of the 6th Europeans 260 have declared their intention of retiring from the regiment. At Meerut, out of 818 non-commissioned officers and men forming the 2nd Light Cavalry, it is stated that only 30 men who enlisted to serve the Company will remain in the regiment, exclusive of the old soldiers who recently volunteered into it from the homeward-bound dragon regiments. At Lucknow, it is said by one account that only 40 or 50 men, and by another account that only 15 men, of the 4th Cavalry are willing to remain in India. Of the Bengal European Artillery it is reported that at Meerut 343 men have claimed their discharge; at Allahabad, 58 men; at Cawnpore, 79 men; at Agra, 52 men; at Delhi, 90; at Gwalior 80; and at Muttra 58 men of the 3rd troop 3rd brigade Bengal Horse Artillery, out of 119 men. Of the 976 men at present composing the recruit depot for local regiments at Barrackpore 56 have claimed their discharge. From the Punjab the reports are that at Sealkote 64 men of the Horse Artillery have demanded their discharge; and at Meerut the whole of the European cavalry, with the exception of 27 men who had been transferred from the 9th Lancers. The majority of the European artillerymen at Lahore are expected to do the same. When the late Company's troops in Fort George Barracks, Bombay, were paraded a few days ago, and the general order was read to them, 41 men out of the 90 claimed their discharge. At Poona, out of 137 men composing Captain Gage's troop of Bombay Horse Artillery, 74 accepted their discharge. A rumour to the effect that the Sikh cavalry at Allahabad were following in the wake of the Europeans in demanding bounty, and were growing disaffected, has neither been corroborated nor repeated.

Government is placed in an embarrassing position by the very general acceptance which its liberal offer of a discharge has met with. The cost of transport alone will form a considerable item, which can ill be spared in the present disordered state of Indian finances; and how and when are the vacant ranks to be filled up? Some volunteering is already going on from the Line. At Goojah, where there is a wing of the 71st under orders for Malta, volunteering is said to be opened for the 3rd Bengals and the Bengal Artillery for all men under six years' service. So at Delhi volunteering has commenced from the 88th Connaught Rangers for the 2nd Europeans and the Bengal Artillery. At Gwalior, also, it is stated that more than the number of men required to fill up the vacancies in the company of European Artillery stationed there have come forward from the 92nd and the 71st Highlanders. So at Muttra volunteering is talked of from the Carabiniers.

Of those among the late Company's troops who have accepted their discharge it is known that many would never have thought even of asking to leave their corps had it not been for the inviting opportunity presented to them by Lord Canning's general order. A temptation has been offered them which they could not resist. The greater part of those who have decided on quitting the service are young soldiers fond of change, and who hope, in the present threatening aspect of European affairs to be re-enlisted on their return home. There are some older soldiers retiring, simply because they are glad to seize the opportunity of seeing again their home and friends; and some older still, having served as many as ten or twelve years, have accepted their discharge. These are supposed to have saved money, or to have acquired it in some more or less legitimate way during the late campaign. The exodus of troops is not to be attributed to any general or special dissatisfaction with the late Company's or with the Queen's military service; the principal cause lies in the common dislike to a profession which is entertained by its members after the first novelty of it has worn off, and to the nearly universal disrelish which Europeans feel for Indian life when they have had a few months' experience of the country.

On discussing amongst themselves Lord Canning's general order, the cry has been for "England, home, and beauty," accompanied by an execration upon what some of them term "this ungodly land."

THE GOVERNMENT.

The *Bombay Times* says:—"The retirement of Lord Stanley from the Indian Council is, we are persuaded, little short of a national calamity; while the appointment of Sir Charles Wood as his successor is one of those terrible reverses which we must expect from the Government of India by party. If we are to judge by a recent speech of this gentleman in the Commons, he is about as fit to govern India in the present juncture of affairs as are the representative men of the old India House. He has learned nothing in this mutiny and unlearned nothing, and unless wiser men than he gain the preponderance in the Council, we shall not improbably find the government thrown a second time into the hands of the organised hypocrisy of Leadenhall-street—the Manglescum-Willoughby party. Whether the people of England will bear or forbear, it was the system of which those men were the representatives which produced the Indian rebellion, and which, if it be not wholly reversed, will make the government of this country, for the advantage of either, an impossibility."

"Lord Stanley does not properly belong to the Conservative party, and it would be worth an effort of the Liberals to bring him avowedly into their ranks. Lord Stanley owes a duty to his country as well as to his father; and, however much we may value his Indian administration of the last twelve months, we cannot but regret that his taking office under Lord Derby should have separated him from his legitimate political connections. The sooner Lord Stanley is back with the Liberal party the better for himself and for his country. There is certainly no man now in either House to whom it would be wiser to confide the government of India for a long term of years than this young nobleman, who has divined the real wants of the country and the only policy which can make our rule therein beneficial to both lands. Instead of Sir Charles Wood at the head of the Council, there would perhaps have been some hope for India had Mr. Bright been placed there. The appointment of Sir Charles Wood is little short of a mockery, and involves the guilt of a selfish trifling with the interests of this people."

MORE FIGHTING.

Two rather important actions are recorded. They were fought near Saugor, by Lieutenant Roome, of the 10th Native Infantry, with certain rebel bodies consisting, we suppose, of the debris of Tantia Topce's force. Lieutenant Roome, commanding a detachment of the 10th Native Infantry and of Mayne's Horse at Basonda, is said to have surprised Adeel Mohammed on the 23rd ult., in the neighbourhood of Goojahpoora. The attacking force consisted of 160 men of the 10th Native Infantry and 100 of the horse. Roome left Basonda hoping that the rebels, said to be 2000 strong, and amongst them 800 mutineers, would await his attack if made with so small a force. The rebel leader had taken up a strong position in the hills, but seems to have wanted courage at the last moment to sustain the assault. Our little column advanced upon the position to find it abandoned. Lieutenant Blair, with the cavalry, went in pursuit, and cut up a hundred of the enemy. The column was fired upon on its return at the village of Goojahpoore, when Roome gave orders to storm it—an operation which was performed without loss, and the supplies of an army collected therein destroyed. Two or three days after information was brought that another leader, Surferaz Khan, with three hundred sepoys, was again encamped at Goojahpoore; and Roome marched at twelve o'clock that night to come upon the rebels just as they were preparing to march in the morning. The cavalry were at once let slip, but the rebels made for and secured the hills. A few only were cut up. These were all Bengal sepoys, and showed a good deal of discipline in their tactics, for after the first charge they took up a position in the rocks, where the horses could not follow, and kept up a steady fire of musketry and abuse upon the assailants. The infantry finally dislodged them from the ground they had taken, killing a large number of them, and capturing all their horses and baggage animals. Among the dead were sepoys who had fought at Mooltan and Guzerat, as was evidenced by the medals that were found upon them.

Particulars have been received in Bombay of a very gallant action being fought by Major Meade in the neighbourhood of Seepree. On the morning of the first instant Meade arrived at the village of Goojahpoore with 40 men of the 92d Highlanders, 100 of Meade's Horse, and 100 of the 9th Native Infantry. The village was stormed at once, and the rebels took shelter in a square tower, whence they were finally smoked out and destroyed to a man, with the loss of ten killed and wounded on our side.

The *Delhi Gazette* records three cases of Sutte during the month of May last. One took place in the neighbourhood of Futtyghur, another at the village of Koongur, in Hansi district, and a third on the estate of the Dadree Nawab. It is stated that at Koongur the subject was talked of for some days before, and the barbarous rite celebrated in the open day, without any remonstrance from the local police.

A strong police force has been stationed on the frontiers of Oude, in order to prevent a possible inroad of rebels into that country.

THE REBEL LEADERS.

A prominent leader in the late mutinies, named Fussahut-colla, for whose capture Government offered 3000 rupees reward, has just been captured, with some other rebels, at Lucknow, by the magistrate at Budaon and Mr. Carnegie, the deputy commissioner. Several treasonable papers were found upon him. He awaits his trial.

The Begum, with Beni Madho and several of her party, it seems, are desirous to surrender; and some petitions, tied up in an old rag, have been submitted to the Chief Commissioner, amongst which was found a promissory note for 193,300 sicca rupees from the Begum to Mohammed Essoff Khan at Lucknow, with instructions to get payment thereon without delay. The Begum is said to have about ninety lacs' worth of such paper with her.

In a letter from Cawnpore of June 22 it is stated that an officer of distinction has been treating with Nana Sahib without the sanction of the higher authorities. On its becoming known an interdictory order on the subject was issued, and it was directed that if the Nana gave himself up on the terms offered by the officer he was not to be taken prisoner, and no capture is to be made for twenty-four hours afterwards.

The Rajah of Boondee has died of fever in the rebel camp, and all his family and followers have surrendered to the native commandant of police at Joolsepoore. The rebels are being brought in by the patrols in a state of prostration, and it is reported that at least one-seventh of their number are in the same deplorable state.

In the Nizam's dominions, the Moulvie who headed the rebels in the attack on the residency has been tried by three Moulvies, who found him guilty, not of rebellion, but of "impropriety," and he has been sentenced to transportation for life.

The Calcutta journals say that the Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Father Johosaphat, who is at Hazarebagh, has been active in fomenting the insubordination evinced by the European troops at that station. His misconduct in this respect has been so great and so openly manifested as to have incurred not only the condemnation of the military authorities, but also the reprobation of his brother priest, Camillus. Under these circumstances the government has ordered him quietly to quit Hazarebagh.

THE WRECK OF THE SILISTRIA.—We published a short time back an account of the scenes that took place at the wreck of the Silistria, a Turkish steamer. The *Northern Bee* gives additional particulars. The shipwreck is attributed to the negligence and incapacity of its captain, who was so intent upon pillaging sums of money and other valuables on board that he perished the victim of his crime. "The Mohammedan passengers, among whom was the famous Commissioner of Jeddah (Said Pacha), rushed upon the Christian passengers, and beat and robbed them. Luckily for the Christians there were among the passengers twenty-eight Austrian seamen, who armed themselves in haste with what came first to hand, and they defended the Christians to the last moment. Nevertheless the number of persons killed by the Mussulmans amounts to seventy-seven, while the total number of passengers was 350. The Austrians were the last to get into the transport. This shifting of the passengers to the transport, in the midst of a fearful massacre, continued for several hours, during which no one thought of taking away with him any provisions, so that another calamity—that of famine—threatened the passengers in the transport. An inquiry has been commenced, Said Pacha standing first among the accused."

ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

THE ZURICH CONFERENCE.

DURING last week we heard constantly of the differences in the views of the Plenipotentiaries at Zurich, and the absence of courtesy and good feeling in their personal relations. A telegram from Berne, however, tells a different story. It communicates the intelligence that all the Plenipotentiaries, including the Sardinian, partook of Count Coloredo's hospitality, and joined with him in celebrating the birthday of his Imperial master, Francis Joseph. In his speech on the occasion Count Coloredo said that the fact of all the Plenipotentiaries being present proved that their work of peace would be crowned with success.

The French and Austrian Plenipotentiaries are said to have regulated the settlement of the affairs of Lombardy with the consent of the Sardinian Plenipotentiary. This arrangement is expected to be confirmed by the different Sovereigns. "The affairs of the Duchies," says a telegram from Berne, "will be treated of directly between the Courts of Paris and Vienna."

CENTRAL ITALY.

The intelligence from the Duchies is important. Modena has followed the example set by its neighbour, and by a unanimous vote has declared Francis V., or any other prince of the House of Hapsburg-Lorraine, incapable of reigning in Modena. As a measure of safety it has also decreed their banishment from the country; and on Saturday they decreed the annexation of the State to "the monarchical, constitutional, and glorious kingdom of the dynasty of Savoy, under the magnanimous sceptre of King Victor Emmanuel."

The dictatorial authority which Farina abdicated on the meeting of the National Assembly has been conferred on him again by the unanimous vote of that body. We also hear of a rather hasty and puerile resolve of the National Assembly to erect a monument in commemoration of the downfall of the dynasty of Este. Matters of more gravity and importance ought surely to occupy its attention just now. A more judicious resolution of the Assembly recommends the Dictator to use all efforts in order to effect the restitution of all the political prisoners whom Francis V. carried away with him on leaving the country. M. Farini has also been offered, and has accepted the dictatorship of Parma. The *Pays* says that on the arrival of Farina to assume the Government a portion of the troops proclaimed their fidelity to the Bourbon Duchess, and took possession of the small fortress of Bardi, intending to hold it for their Sovereign so long as there shall remain any chance of her restoration.

On Saturday the Florence Chambers voted by acclamation the annexation of Tuscany to Piedmont.

General Garibaldi arrived at Florence on the 14th inst., to take the chief command of the Tuscan army. It is tolerably certain that he will be placed at the head of the united forces of Central Italy.

Another important piece of intelligence announces the formation of an offensive and defensive league by the Duchies.

Notwithstanding the presence of the numerous forces which Austria maintains in Venetia the Imperial authorities appear to have great difficulty in controlling the public mind. The *Gazette de Venise* of the 13th publishes a proclamation of the Director of Police, which speaks of a serious agitation. It tells us that "even now the public continue to give ear to the lying reports which the party of disorder labours to spread for a criminal purpose—even naming the precise day on which the supposed events will take place. The police ardently desire to prevent the unhappy consequences of a blind trust, which would inevitably fall upon the deceivers and the deceived. They therefore renew the warning that persons must be on their guard, or otherwise the authorities may find themselves under the disagreeable necessity of putting into execution the rigorous measures already prepared, and which will suffice to maintain order, tranquillity, and the safety of the inhabitants."

There is a report that an Austrian corps d'armée is to be concentrated near Rovigo, on the road to the Legations and to Modena.

Signor Albert Mario and his wife (late Miss Jessie White) have been arrested at Bologna.

A letter from Rome of the 14th communicates the Pope's answer to an autograph letter of the Emperor Napoleon, in which his Holiness was called upon to assume the honorary headship of the proposed Italian Confederation, and to consent to the adoption of certain reforms in the administration of his temporal dominions. The Pope declines to have anything to do with the Confederation unless the deposed Princes be restored. He will not accede to the proposal of a separate administration for the Legations of the Romagna. He consents, however, to the secularisation, provided that his subjects shall not object to it, as he alleges they did in 1849.

THE EMPEROR'S AMNESTY.

LOUIS BLANC, writing to the *Daily News*, says—

I have received communications from some of my countrymen who, finding themselves in a most painful condition, and being anxiously summoned home by their families, desire to know, in order to remove all doubts from their minds, whether, according to my views, persons situated as they are would do better not to take advantage of the amnesty. . . . Now, the amnesty, being unconditional, no sort of stain whatever attaches to the act of availing oneself of it, more especially if it be for the purpose of fulfilling domestic duties not less imperative and sacred than those arising from political convictions. No man, therefore, conscientiously influenced by such contingencies is to blame for seizing the opportunity, though reluctant to receive the boon.

On the other hand, there are those who, without being in the slightest degree prompted by the silly desire of setting up as martyrs, feel bound to subordinate all personal considerations to what they conceive to be a public duty consequent upon their position. If these persons have strong and obvious motives for believing that their return, besides being unsafe, would be of no avail either to their cause or to their country, they are, it seems to me, perfectly entitled to remain where they can speak out their mind, and enjoy the ennobling protection of the law. To serve France in France is for us now plainly impossible. To serve her abroad is the only chance we have left, at least so long as the policy of the Empire remains unchanged.

I have already acknowledged, which I am sorry to say, was wilfully ignored by some of my critics, that Louis Bonaparte could hardly have done for us, in the present conjuncture, more than he has. But the amnesty is not the payment of the debt he owes to France; and in this payment lies the only means of imparting to the amnesty the character of a sincere and truly national act. Let the most odious practice be abolished which confiscates personal liberty on mere suspicion, and is, in fact, worse than the famous *loi des suspects*, enacted in the darkest days of the French Revolution. Let the principle be laid down that no person henceforth shall be dealt with as a criminal who has not been previously convicted by a jury of his country. Let the press be ungagged by the withdrawal of the crushing system of warnings, which is meant to annul the jury, and to make the whole of a man's property responsible for a single word. Let a fairly elected representative body speak openly before the country, and no check put on the publicity of their deliberations; let, in fine, all those rights be restored to France which constitute civil and political liberty—then the amnesty will be a clear, appreciable measure. Till this be done it remains open to the suspicion of insincerity, and may be taken as an indication of weakness rather than of strength.

M. Victor Hugo makes the following declaration:—

No man will expect that, so far as I am personally concerned, I should give a moment's attention to the thing called an amnesty. While the state of France remains what it is, my duty will be to protest against it absolutely, inflexibly, eternally. Faithful to the engagement I have made with my conscience, I shall share to the last the exile of liberty. When liberty returns, I will return.

PRICES OF SLAVES.—The *Richmond* (United States) Despatch of the 25th of July includes in its market note the traffic in human beings:—"In response to the inquiries made from persons at a distance as to the prices slaves are commanding in the market, we publish the annexed statement, furnished by reliable authority:—No 1 men, 20 to 26 years old, from 1450 dols. to 1500 dols.; best grown girls, 17 to 20 years old, from 1275 dols. to 1325 dols.; girls from 12 to 15 years old, 1000 dols. to 1100 dols.; best ploughboys, 17 to 20 years old, 1350 dols. to 1425 dols.; boys from 12 to 15 years old, 1000 dols. to 1200 dols. Likely families, and also boys and girls, command high prices, as there are several gentlemen in the market who are purchasing for their own plantations in the South."

IRELAND.

THE CATHOLIC HIERARCHY AND EDUCATION.—The deliberations and decisions of the Roman Catholic hierarchy on the question of education have at length been given authoritatively to the world. The mixed system is condemned entirely, and a claim is put in for a separate grant to Catholic schools as in England. Informal that mixed education is also condemned by anticipation, and the Queen's colleges are put in the black list. This decision has already borne fruits. The Catholic members of the Board of National Education are withdrawing from it, and it is beyond doubt that the whole influence of the Catholic clergy in Ireland will be directed to the withdrawal of the children of their communion from the National Schools.

SCOTLAND.

SERIOUS RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A serious accident occurred on Thursday week on the South-Western Railway, near Glasgow, caused by the train running off the rails at a spot where they were undergoing repairs, the rails not having been properly fastened. A passenger by the train says—"The engine, tender, and van, and a first-class carriage remained on the rails; three third-class carriages, immediately following, were completely upset; and other two third and two first-class carriages ran over the embankment—fortunately a small one—into the adjoining field, a distance of ten yards. Two third-class carriages and a van—being the last part of the train—were thrown across the rails, a considerable portion of which were torn up. No time was lost in extricating the passengers from the capsized carriages, and every one who could, lent a helping hand in the circumstances. Three of the passengers—two women, and a miner on his way to Paisley—were apparently severely injured, and several others received contusions, though not of a serious nature. One of the two women carried a child in her arms, which marvellously escaped unhurt."

SALE OF POISON.—Francis DUNCAN, a shiprigger, of Dundee, applied at a chemist's for some prussic acid to kill rats. He was informed that the article was not usually applied to such a purpose, and was refused. Duncan then went to another shop, where he asked for oil of vitriol (sulphuric acid). The shopman, a Mr. Clark, questioned him as to the intended use of it, and informed him that it was a very cruel method of killing vermin. Duncan then asked for prussic acid instead, and Mr. Clark gave him a bottle duly labelled with the article required, but which he had filled with pure water and a few grains of Rochelle salts to give it a flavour. Duncan was told that such a phial of acid would kill half a dozen people, and with this caution he left the shop. Meanwhile he fell under suspicion of having stolen a watch from his lodgings, and was apprehended. However, just before the officers seized him he drew forth the phial, swallowed its contents, and then placidly informed the officers that in a few minutes he would be beyond the reach of human law. A medical gentleman was instantly sent for, who had the satisfaction of finding emetics and other appliances, suggested by the nature of the supposed poison, followed in a few minutes by the revival of the poor man, who was no less astonished at being so easily rescued from death. He has since been examined and committed to goal. The discretion shown by Mr. Clark in this instance deserves commendation.

THE PROVINCES.

AN EARTHQUAKE IN NORFOLK.—On Saturday week the village of Hopton, Norfolk, experienced two separate vibrations of the earth's surface, at an interval of about thirty seconds. The vibration was accompanied by low rumbling like a distant cannonade; the sky at the time was perfectly cloudless; both the rumbling and vibration attracted the attention of several labourers in the harvest fields and of many persons at home. In an adjacent village the shock was sufficiently powerful to throw down some furniture in the houses.

THE LEEDS MURDER.—Two men now in the Wakefield House of Correction on another charge are suspected of the murder of Mr. Broughton, near Leeds. A heavy stick with some blood and hair attached to it was picked up near the spot where Broughton was attacked, and the watch stolen from the unfortunate man was found to have been pledged at a shop in Leeds within about two hours after the murder. One of the prisoners at Wakefield, a man named Beardon, has, it is said, been recognised as the person who pawned the watch.

A COAL-FIT FLOOD.—A distressing calamity has happened near Tipton, in South Staffordshire. William Jackson and Elish Swain, colliers in Messrs. Bagnall's employ, were engaged in driving a road in one of their master's pits, when the water that had accumulated in a disused colliery rushed in, and the poor fellows were overwhelmed by the current. Escape was impossible. It was some hours before their bodies could be found.

A FEMALE SAILOR.—A woman was charged at the Newport Police Office, Monmouthshire, last week, with walking about in male attire. The defendant, in appearance, gait, and gesture appeared to be a sailor; and in boldness of conduct presented a striking contrast to the quiet-looking seaman, her husband, who stood beside her. It appeared that for ten years she has toiled as a man. She has voyaged to Quebec, Bombay, and other distant places, and at other times has shipped in coasters, loading and unloading the cargoes with the rest of the crew. This life was varied by a little duty on land, as a navvy. Her last voyage was from Truro, as an aboriginal seaman, at £2 5s. per month. The defendant said she was married on the 12th of July last, and shipped as cook and steward from Truro, in order to support her husband, who had met with a misfortune. The woman was discharged.

EXECUTION AT MONMOUTH.—The sentence of the law was carried into effect at nine o'clock yesterday morning on Matthew Francis, convicted at the Monmouth Assizes of the murder of his wife. While in goal Francis made one or two attempts to destroy himself. The culprit was assisted to the scaffold apparently almost unconscious.

THE VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.—The Cambridge Rifle Corps have purchased a piece of ground for practising.—At Norwich and Yarmouth the companies already formed are being drilled.—At Bridport, also, there is regular drill, and the corps numbers 100, with £1000 subscriptions in bank.—A corps of 100 men has been established at Salisbury.—The London Rifle Brigade is prospering in all respects.

NEW TELEGRAPH.—A new code of signal telegraphs for the ocean marine service has been patented by Mr. William Henry Ward; his plan is expected to reduce communications between England and America to five days. A steamer leaves New York on Wednesday, passes Cape Race on the Sunday; receives telegraphic communication from New York on the Saturday, and can telegraph in turn to Cape Clear on the Friday, bringing the news within the week.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. Osborne was returned, without opposition, for Liskeard, on Saturday.—The Hertford election has terminated in the re-election of the Hon. Mr. Cowper.—At Hull, Mr. Somes, the Conservative, shipowner, of London, has been returned, beating Mr. Lewis by a majority of 2068 against 1579.—The race at Berwick-upon-Tweed, between Mr. Marjoribanks and Mr. Hodgson, was of the most exciting character, the two candidates running all day neck and neck, so to speak. At noon the numbers on both sides were equal, and when four o'clock struck Marjoribanks' votes totted up only a single unit more than Hodgson's. The numbers at the close were—Marjoribanks, 333; Hodgson, 334. This looks inviting for another petition and a scrutiny.

THE FORESTERS' FETE.—The Foresters' fete at the Crystal Palace on Tuesday was a great success. The extraordinary appearance of the men as they passed through the streets of London attracted general attention. Many of the leaders were dressed in cocked hats, green coats, and stage boots, while many of the men were on their backs a singular preparation of sheep skin, to indicate that they were "Shepherds," a title of honour conferred upon those who have passed through the principal offices of the sect, such as "Woodwards," "Rangers," &c. Others, who were less extensively decorated, carried flags indicating their respective lodges; and when one procession happened to meet another at a turning, the fraternisation which took place was something wonderful.—The total number of visitors was 62,343.

THE CHINESE INVASION OF AMERICA.—Says the *New York Times*—"The persistent influx of the Chinese peasantry to the United States is a fact which presses itself upon the attention alike of the political economist and the statesman. California already has a large Chinese population. Notwithstanding their characteristic vices, the Chinamen, though not popular, are found to be useful members of society. They perform, with alacrity and intelligence, the rude kinds of labour, are marvellously frugal in their habits, and are consequently enabled to work for very low wages. The most obvious immediate effect of Chinese immigration is its tendency to supplant the negro. The Coolie in California has already made the African impossible. There, as in the West India Islands, the Malay labourer is found to be, in all respects, preferable to his darker cousin. The voluntary immigration from Canton and Shanghai into our Pacific States bids fair soon to be enormous; nor is there reason to doubt that it will soon reach the Atlantic States as well. Assuming that these natives of China may one day become as numerous among us as those of Europe, what shall their social and political status be? Are they to be regarded as whites, or as people of colour? Shall they, equally with immigrants from Ireland and Germany, be admitted to the benefit of our naturalisation laws? These are questions which fit and flicker now along the political horizon. But the march of events with us is rapid, and all signs conspire to prove that we have seen only the beginning of that profound strife of races and of principles by which the institutions of the United States are, before long, to be tried in the fire."

PROSPECTS OF THE HARVEST.

THE time has now come when we may glean some information as to the harvest with confidence. In Scotland, with the exception of Perthshire, Haddingtonshire, and Berwickshire, where the wheat crop is said to be "very good," "full average," and "average," respectively, that crop is reported as under an average, while the barley crops are even worse than the wheat. The oats are still worse, and beans not much better. Turnips are also reported as "unpromising," or "light," or "too late," and the like; while mangold-wurzel—which, however, is not as yet much grown in Scotland—is most frequently said to be a "failure." With regard to turnips, however, reports were furnished before the late rains fell; and some of the reports say, even before the rains, that the root crops were "improving."

In England the estimates as regards wheat are more various than in Scotland. Most say the wheat is an average crop, and some call it bulky, but very many speak of it as blighted, injured by storms, and as "laid and damaged." All regard it as much inferior to the wheat crop of last year. The worst reports come from the northern counties and from the light land districts. The barley crop, too, varies as much as the wheat. The oats, save in Cumberland, Northumberland, Westmoreland, and one or two other counties, are reported as very good. In several counties we find different accounts given of the oats by different reporters; but the preponderating estimate is in favour of a large yield of oats. Spring beans and peas in the southern counties are generally good; but the northern counties' reports do not speak so well of these crops. In Cumberland and Westmoreland the turnips have well nigh failed; but in the more southern counties both turnips and mangold-wurzel are reported as very good. Some injury from insects forms an occasional drawback. They have since greatly improved, and there is now no doubt that in England we shall have heavy crops of roots.

The pastures both in Scotland and England are reported generally as very bare and burnt up. Here, however, there has been a wonderful improvement lately, so that our autumn fairs will find the farmers with a pretty good show of after-grass.

In Ireland these reports show the wheat to be in general good, and in some cases very good; while barley and oats are both deficient. The roots are bad, and the pastures more burnt up than in England. Of potatoes, disease is reported in all the three kingdoms, but more in Ireland and the south of England than in the north of England or Scotland. The whole of these returns state in seventeen cases that wheat is over an average, in 114 cases that it is an average, and in 55 under an average. Barley is reported by eight reports to be above an average, by 93 to be an average, and by 67 to be under an average. Of oats, 24 reports are above an average, 76 an average, and 89 under an average. These figures are from all the three kingdoms; the local analysis we have before given affords a more accurate view of the year's prospects.

ENGLISH VICTORIES IN FRANCE.

On the 5th instant six sons of the Thames effected a landing at Dieppe to compete for the different prizes offered at the regatta which took place on the 7th.

Our countrymen soon became aware that their rivals were numerous, and determined to offer the strongest possible resistance to any English that might present themselves. In fact, the Frenchmen felt apprehensive that the same "intruders" might again appear who performed so gloriously a short time ago at the Paris Spring Regatta held at St. Cloud, at which the English beat the best men of France at the very moment they were made acquainted with the victory at Magenta. On the 7th our aquatic countrymen took up their position to struggle against the picked crews of Paris, Havre, Rouen, and Dieppe. Paris, indeed, was well represented, a very spirited French gentleman having for three months trained six of the best rowers in France to compete for the supremacy.

At Dieppe the races were for four-oared and six-oared gigs; and a second four-oared race as a prize of honour for the victors of the above races, a handsome gold cup, given by the Emperor. Thirteen boats started for the four-oared prize, a purse of £16, and a gold medal. The weather was delightful, the sea quite smooth, the shore lined with all the élite of Dieppe. At three o'clock the signal-gun fired to prepare; a second pop made every man bend the blade of his oar. A few minutes sufficed to show the Union Jack had a slight advance, but they were not yet disentangled from two of their adversaries, though it was evident that the long, quiet stroke of the English crew would last longer than the over-quick, energetic style of the French. By degrees they increased their distance, and had the pleasure of showing the others the way over the course. The crew was composed of Thomas White, A. Chitty, W. Bell, and R. Bain. The same crew were joined by G. Driver and E. Bell, and soon started for the six-oared race for a prize, a purse of £20, and a gold medal. The same success, with a greater advantage, followed. The next day the race for the Emperor's Gold Cup took place, and was won by our countrymen.

After the above successes our little corps pushed forward to Rouen. Races for pairs, four-oared, six-oared, and sculling-boats were offered. The first event was the pair-oared race. The English crew, W. and E. Bell, had a very inferior boat, which caused a terrific struggle between themselves and another French crew, who had a very superior and faster boat, with which they took a considerable lead; but after fifteen minutes of hard pulling the English boat rowed by them, winning by ten boats' lengths.

Then followed the four and six oared and sculling races, which they won, amounting to about £30 in money, with a gold medal for each race.

Elated with their good luck, our crew moved on the same evening for Paris. The following morning they were again on the banks of the Seine, and owing to the great number of boats that were entered for the different races—fifteen and eighteen for each race—they had to pull trial matches. The final heats commenced at three o'clock, and after some of the hottest races ever pulled, the English crew won them all—five in number—and added another £10 and five medals to their trophies.

DEATH OF A VETERAN.—The death of General Sir John Slade, Bart., G.C.B., is a loss to the army of its oldest living member, save one. Had he lived but a few months longer he would have completed eighty years of military service (his commission, as Cornet in the 10th Hussars, bears date May 11, 1780), and, with the exception of General John McKenzie, who wore her Majesty's uniform as far back as the 1st of January, 1778, no officer of the army can point to the same term of service. Sir John Slade became a Major-General in 1809, exactly fifty years ago; and he commanded a brigade of cavalry in the Peninsula in that and the preceding year under Sir John Moore. In the subsequent Peninsular campaigns, under the Duke of Wellington, he retained his command, covering the retreat to Torres Vedras, and sharing in many cavalry affairs, as well as in the battles of Fuentes d'Onore, Sahagun, Benavente, and Busaco, for which, along with Corunna, he had the gold war-medal with one clasp, and the silver medal with two clasps, besides being twice honoured by the thanks of Parliament for his services. The deceased General belonged to a Somersetshire family, was born in 1762, and was in his 98th year. The baronetcy, which was conferred upon him in 1831, is inherited by his eldest surviving son, Frederick William Slade, the well-known Queen's counsel, who is twin brother of General Marcus Slade, the Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey. The next brother is Sir Adolphus Slade, B.N., who, as *Muchaver Pacha*, is the head of the Turkish navy. The new baronet was born at Salisbury in 1801.

THE NIEL AND CAMROBERT QUARREL.—It was rumoured in Paris a few days ago that a duel had taken place between Niel and Camrobert, and that the latter had been killed. "The facts seem to have been these," says the *Morning Star*:—"Niel and Camrobert had met on angry terms, and parted with the resolution of settling the quarrel by the sword. The Emperor, whose instinct made him aware of the probability of such a result, sent for both Marshals before his departure for St. Sauveur, and in his presence made them swear not to give to the enemies of the country the miserable spectacle of a quarrel between two of the greatest nobilities of the army. In that evening's *Moniteur* appeared the announcement of Niel's departure for his department, and Camrobert's, likewise, to preside at the Conseil General. That neither had left Paris is evident; the paragraphs were inserted to reply to the story of the duel, which had been greedily devoured by the public."

THE CONVENTS OF LIMA.

In a "New World" we might naturally look for new ideas, for something more fresh and vigorous than the conventionalities and abuses of the old hemisphere; but we have only to turn our eyes to the Spanish republics in South America to find disappointment. For, in the fatal characteristic of superstition and bigotry, they altogether exceed the mother country. Let us take Lima as an example, a correspondent having kindly forwarded to us sketches from which the accompanying Illustrations were made, with an account of a visit to the Monastery of St. Rose, in that city. He says:—

"Leaving the cathedral, I was invited by my companion and guide to visit the monastery of St. Rose, belonging to the monks of the order of St. Domingo. A few steps brought us to the door, which was opened by a tall mulatto, clothed in a long black robe. He received us with quiet respect, and, on learning that we had come to visit the establishment, he conducted us through a long gallery, at the end of which we were introduced into a small apartment occupied by four persons. Three of them made up a group of great interest. First there was the master of the order—an octogenarian—who was seated in a large arm-chair. His head was perfectly bald excepting at the back and sides; his eyebrows were thick and long, and hung over a pair of intelligent eyes, which they nearly concealed. His face was deeply furrowed, yellow, and strongly marked with sensuality. Before him stood, in all the beauty of youth, two young women, dressed in black satin, and wearing over their heads the Spanish lace mantilla, ornamented with a graceful profusion of coral carved in the form of the passion flower and its foliage. Their jet black hair was brushed plainly off each side of their faces, which, although extremely pale, looked healthy enough. Both had large black eyebrows, which gave a searching and dignified expression to their beautiful dark eyes. The youngest of the two stood with her arm round the waist of the elder, and seemed to cling to her with the affection of a sister. At a little distance was seated an aged duenna, narrowly watching through an opening of her veil her young charges. Not wishing to disturb the scene before us we remained on one side. Father Zea did not appear to be aware of our presence; he was holding the hand of the eldest of the two girls to whom he was giving some instruction relative to charity in which they were both engaged. When the old man had ceased speaking the young girls stooped down and kissed the hem of his robe, and disappeared, followed by the old duenna. Father Zea then turned towards us and asked in what way he could be useful to us. My friend stated our desire to visit the monastery, particularly the museum; the old man immediately sent for the monk who acted as curator, and with him we proceeded to visit the establishment. The museum contains a heap of relics—deeply interesting, no doubt, to the faithful, although they were not so to me. Having satisfied our curiosity we returned to the cell of Father Zea, who took some pains to relate to us the miracles which had been performed by the patron saint of the monastery. On



A VISIT TO A LIMA CONVENT.

taking leave of him he gave us his blessing, and presented each of us with the life of the saint.

On reaching the street we were much struck at the scene we discovered at the gate. A priest was seated at a table, on which stood a skull, a crucifix, and two lanterns in which tapers were burning. On his knees he held a plate into which the faithful dropped their offerings as they passed. On one side of the table stood three monks, clothed in sack cloth, and opposite to the old priest stood another at prayer. This group contrasted widely with that which appeared a little beyond; it consisted of two secular priests of different sects, if one might judge from their garments, and of two girls, one of whom was dressed in the national costume of the country, while the other, young and graceful, wore a short muslin dress, black silk scarf, and a straw hat trimmed with a wreath of natural flowers. She was all smiles, and yet with all her jaunty air there was something sweetly innocent about her."

Our correspondent afterwards visited the churches, where he made other sketches, some of which we shall have pleasure in publishing in a future number.

ROYAL VISIT TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

On the 13th inst. her Majesty embarked on board the Royal yacht for a cruise to the Channel Islands, reaching Jersey on the same day. A local artist has forwarded to us a Sketch of the Queen's visit to Victoria College, which we have great pleasure in engraving in our present Number. The following condensed account is from the

Jersey Independent:—"Her Majesty was received at the college by the Bailiff, the members of the States, the Dean, the clergy, by the principal of the college, Dr. Henderson, and the different professors. The Queen and Prince Albert having recorded their names, and expressed the great pleasure it afforded them to hear of the flourishing state of this noble educational institution, left the building amidst the same amount of hearty cheering as greeted them on their arrival. The preparations for re-embarkation being completed, her Majesty and the young Princesses alighted, and, walking to the Royal barges through the guard of honour the illustrious party re-embarked under a salute fired by the Emerald frigate, the band of the 15th Regiment playing 'God Save the Queen,' and the national air 'Rule Britannia.' About five o'clock a Royal salute from Elizabeth Castle announced the debarkation of the Royal party at St. Aubin's. Immediately on landing the Royal visitors proceeded to St. Peter's Valley, and thence through the parishes of St. John and Trinity, taking just a peep at Bouley Bay and St. Martin's, to St. Catherine's Pier. By this ruse her Majesty enjoyed a quiet drive, and escaped that 'mobbing' which is one of the penalties inflicted upon popular Royalty. By this time the Royal squadron arrived off Gorey; and in about half an hour her Majesty and suite embarked on board the Fairy tender. It was now near upon eight o'clock, and the beautiful day had been succeeded by as beautiful an evening. The moon shone with surpassing brilliancy. About midnight a change was indicated by flying clouds and continuous gleams of lightning. At three o'clock a thunder-storm broke over the island, succeeded by torrents of rain. Meanwhile the Royal squadron lay anchored off Gorey. About four o'clock the storm abated, and the morning broke cool and brilliant. At ten o'clock the Royal squadron departed from the anchorage, steaming towards Guernsey, which island was visited in turn by the Royal party." Another correspondent has sent us a sketch, from which the accompanying Illustration is taken. It shows the Queen embarking on board the Fairy tender, in the "New Dock," at Guernsey.

The following message has since been addressed to the Governor of Guernsey and the local authorities:—

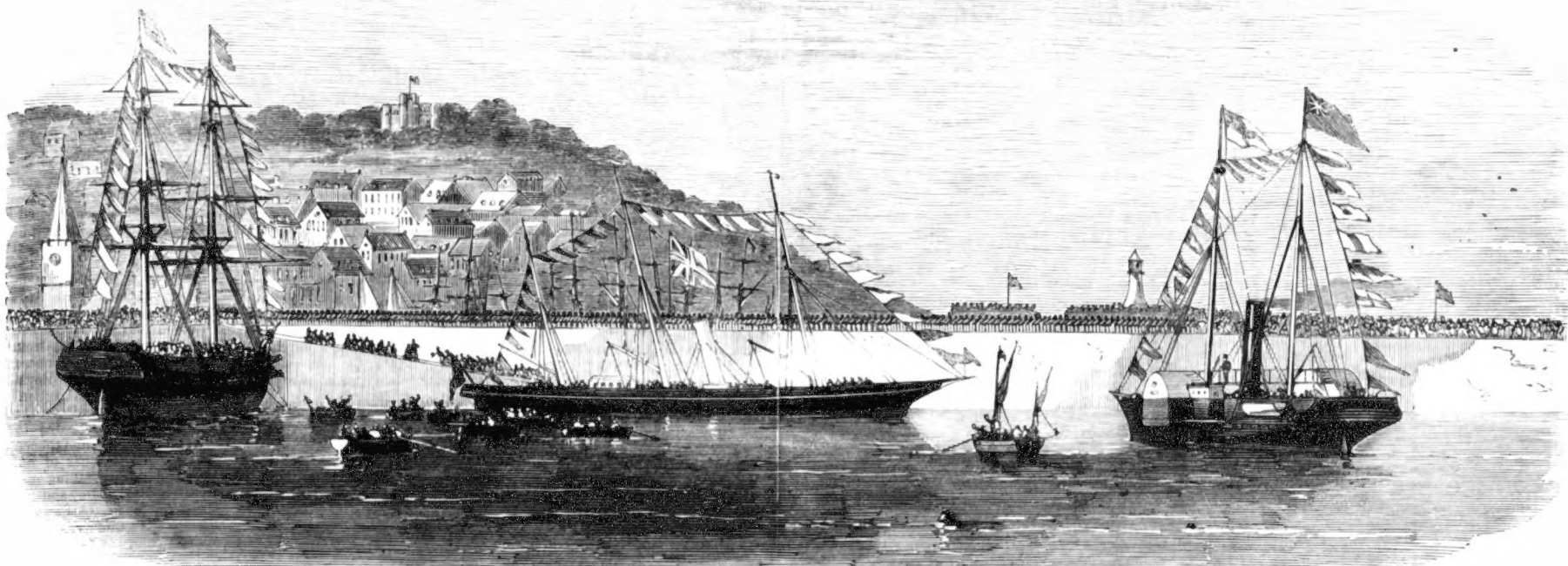
Whitehall, Aug. 16.
Sir,—It affords me much satisfaction to inform you that I have received the Queen's commands to convey to you, and, through you, to the Bailiff and other authorities of the island, her Majesty's entire approval of the arrangements which were made on the occasion of her Majesty's recent visit to Guernsey. The loyalty manifested by the inhabitants of this ancient possession of her Majesty's Crown afforded her Majesty sincere gratification, and it has left a deep and lasting impression on her Majesty's mind and feelings.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
The Lieutenant-Governor, &c., Guernsey. G. C. LEWIS.

THE CHANNEL FLEET left Spithead on Monday for a cruise of eight days off Ushant.



SCENE AT A CONVENT GATE, LIMA.



EMBARKATION OF HER MAJESTY AT THE NEW DOCK, GUERNSEY.—(FROM A PICTURE BY E. J. L. S.)

MR. SPURGEON'S NEW TABERNACLE.

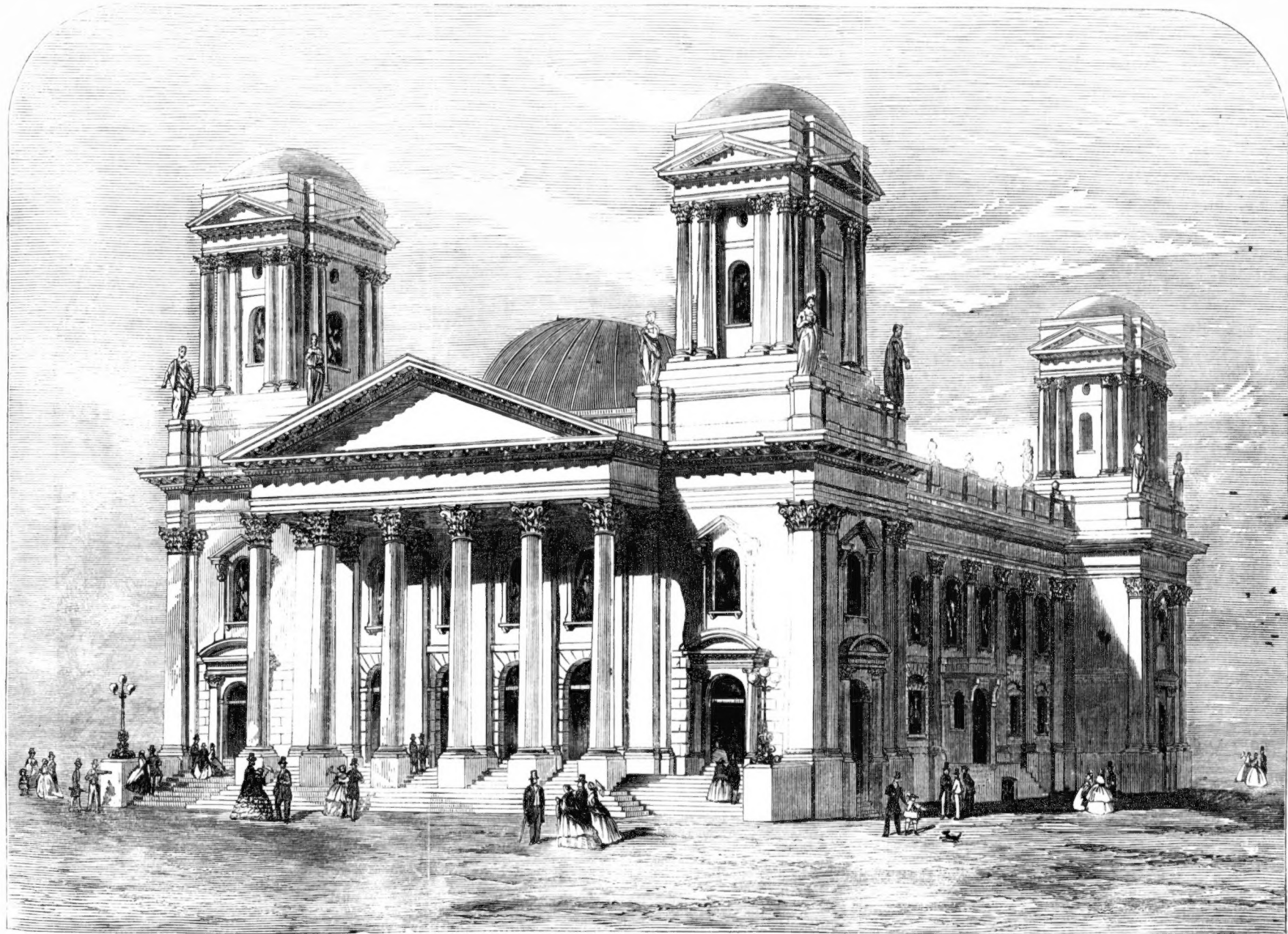
In our last Impression we briefly reported the laying of the foundation-stone of the "Spurgeon Tabernacle." We now publish two Engravings one illustrating the above ceremony, the other giving a view of the building as it will appear when completed.

The portico and main entrance is to abut on the Newington-road, and, whether regarded as a church, or chapel, or tabernacle, or whatever Mr. Spurgeon's congregation may please to call it, the whole structure will be an imposing one, and one of the largest of its kind in the metropolis. The style of the edifice may be termed Grecian, the ground-plan forming a large quadrangle, the floor of the chapel being considerably raised, and access gained to it by a broad and massive flight of steps leading up to a portico supported on large Corinthian columns of Bute stone. The chapel will be 146 feet long by 81 wide, and with two deep tiers of galleries on each side. In this respect the interior will rather resemble that of the well-known Surrey Music-hall, but on a larger scale, as each row of galleries in Mr. Spurgeon's building will accommodate six rows of sitters. The ground-floor space of the Surrey Hall is only 8265 feet, whereas the proposed Tabernacle on the ground floor will be no less than 11,242 feet, or one third larger than the fine structure in the Surrey Gardens. The whole chapel is intended

to accommodate no less than 5000 persons with comfort. The fronts of the galleries will be of ornamental cast-iron, with enriched cast-iron columns supporting the galleries, and rising from the upper tier to the roof, which they carry on a series of small and beautifully-curved arches. Though no great efforts have been made in the way of ornamentation, yet the proportions of the interior are good, and the effect of the whole when finished will be handsome and striking. Mr. Pococke is the architect, and the whole design certainly does him credit. The facilities for entering and leaving the building are most ample, there being no less than sixteen doors to the chapel. Each gallery has its separate door and staircase, and all the staircases are of solid stone. The cost of the building is to be £21,500, but fittings and other matters will probably swell this amount to some £24,000 or £25,000 before the edifice is open for Divine service, which can hardly be earlier than the spring of 1861. Of course, like all other buildings, it is affected by the present strike, and no progress can be made till the masters and workmen have settled their dispute one way or the other. Sir S. M. Peto laid the stone, underneath which Mr. Spurgeon then placed a bottle, containing a copy of the Bible, of the Baptists' Catechism, of Dr. Ripon's Hymn-book, and the programme of the day's proceedings, in the cavity prepared for it.

A "friend at Bristol," through Mr. E. T. Inskip, placed on the stone a cheque for the munificent sum of £3000 sterling. Mr. Inskip, while placing this generous contribution on the stone, stated that, if forty gentlemen could be found to give £50 each, or twenty to give £100, his friend would undertake to double the total amount. On the spot several gentlemen immediately accepted this challenge amid much cheering.

THE BUSINESS OF THE DIVORCE COURT.—From the 1st of January to the 1st of June last 54 divorce suits for a dissolution of marriage were heard before the full court, and 6 before a single judge and jury; 46 petitions for divorce were decreed, and only 6 refused. Two causes were struck out of the list, no counsel appearing; and in one or two causes the relief of a dissolution was refused, but a judicial separation *a mensa et thoro* decreed notwithstanding. 333 motions were heard and disposed of by the learned Judge Ordinary between January and June last, and 311 summonses disposed of in chambers by the same authority. 20 applications for a mere "judicial separation" were decreed from January to June, and 1 only refused; 42 suits for dissolution of marriage were presented by the husbands, and 19 by the wives. In the cases of judicial separation the figures are reversed, 18 petitions having been handed in by unhappy wives, and only 6 by unfortunate husbands. 11 petitions for the protection of the property of wives were granted, and 3 refused.



MR. SPURGEON'S NEW TABERNACLE.—(MR. POCOCKE, ARCHITECT.)

THE BUILDERS' STRIKE.

THE only condition on which the masters will reopen their works—the resumption of work at Messrs. Trollope's—is still unfulfilled. Messrs. Trollope have sent a foreman to the north of England to obtain hands, but the men have sent two masons on his track to represent their views of the matter. However, this firm has now about 130 men at work, all of whom have gone in under the declaration. These do not include gilders, carvers, cabinetmakers, and upholsterers, but are ordinary operatives of the building trades.

In consequence of some misunderstanding as to the money distributed by the association amongst some of the labourers locked out, there was some disturbance at the Favior's Arms on Tuesday, and Mr. Noble, bricklayer, and one of the committee, had to come forward and explain how the fund had been administered. He said,—

The amount of money which we sent to the bricklayers in order to pay them 1s. 1d. a head, which was all we could give, was £58; to the masons we sent £29, to the painters, £19, to the plasterers £33, to the carpenters and joiners £152, and to the labourers' committee, through our delegates, £175. In addition to this we paid the Woolwich men—538 in number—the stone-sawyers, smiths, and plumbers. To Trollope's men alone we paid £120. They were the men that you called out for the nine hours, and must be maintained. We paid to those men 12s. each for the mechanics, and 8s. 6d. for the labourer. That amounted to between £600 and £700, which was the whole of the money that was collected. The money we received was equally divided amongst the whole lot, labourers and mechanics alike, and the amount paid was 1s. 1d. a head. If you want anything more plain and straightforward than that perhaps you will tell me. The point is this. If the masters had not shut up their shops, and locked the men out, we should have had ample funds to carry out the nine hours' movement; but the masters having locked out the men, who amount to thousands in number, how do you think that we can guarantee you anything like a tangible support? Do you know how much we should want to give you anything like a tangible support? Why, £20,000 or £30,000 a week. The fact is, my friends, this is a question of principle against capital; and if you are not prepared to stand for a week or two against the oppressive means which the masters are using against you, why then the working man must fall.

The trades delegates met again on Tuesday to report what the societies they represented authorised them to do on behalf of the movement.

The delegate from the smiths regretted that the smiths had not hitherto been regarded as belonging to the building trade, although they had been locked out and had suffered equally with the others. The money, therefore, which they had to appropriate was appropriated through a separate committee for the support of the smiths and metal workers.

Mr. Potter said that they never refused to recognise the smiths as a portion of the building trades. They had eighty smiths on pay. He stated that in a letter to the representatives of the smiths.

The delegates of the French polishers, saddlers and harness-makers, umbrella-makers, silk-velvet weavers, and others—about thirty societies in all—declared that their committees would contribute what they could in support of the "lock-outs." Several of the delegates, however, expressed their dislike of strikes in general, which was not the case of the delegate of the "boot and shoe makers of the West-end," who said he had asked for no further instructions since the last meeting, because his society was "always ready to support all strikes."

STRIKE OF THE CHAINMAKERS.

According to accounts received from Worcestershire and South Staffordshire a serious strike has recently taken place and is still continuing among the chainmakers of the district. The principal seat of the trade is near Stourbridge and Dudley, but it is also carried on to a large extent near Wolverhampton and Walsall, where the neighbouring iron and coal fields furnish abundance of raw material for the purpose. The strike is for an advance of 1s. per cwt. upon what are technically called "half-inch" chains, with a proportionate advance upon other descriptions. The price hitherto paid for chains of this kind has been 4s. per cwt.; and, as it is considered that five cwt. is a fair average week's work for an adult, the rate of wage would appear not to exceed 20s. a week. This is a very different remuneration from that received by the metropolitan building operatives, who are not satisfied with 33s. for a week of 58½ hours, with a "time and a half" for over-time. But the difference is greater than at first sight is evident, for out of his 20s. a week the unfortunate chainmaker has to pay for firing and the wages of a boy to blow his bellows, in addition to having to find the bellows in the first instance, and to replace them when worn out.

THE STRIKE IN DUBLIN.

The amicable arrangements subsisting between the builders and the working carpenters of Dublin have been unexpectedly interrupted, and the negotiations for an advance of wages, which were all but completed to the satisfaction of both parties at the beginning of last week, have ended in discord. On Monday morning a series of resolutions were issued, from which it appears that the association of employers decided that the wages now paid were fully equal to what existing circumstances and contracts could warrant. The carpenters adhere to the original demand, and have decided that it shall be strictly maintained. The increase sought is 4d. per diem.

THE AMNESTY.—We read in the *Nord*:—"The decree of amnesty applies to the persons condemned for the invasion of the Constituent Assembly on the 15th of May, 1848, and releases Blanqui, who is detained in Corsica, and allows Raspail, Louis Blanc, Albert, and others to return; Hubert, another of the condemned in that affair, was pardoned long ago, and obtained the concession of a railway in the Doubs. There are still in confinement a certain number of the persons who were transported after the insurrection of June, 1848; and they will profit by the decree. The amnesty opens the gates of France to MM. Felix Pyat, Ribeyrolles, and others who were condemned for the insurrection of June, 1849. M. Guinand, Colonel of the Artillery of the National Guard, who was condemned for participation in the same affair, has already been pardoned, and even reinstated. The decrees issued after the coup-d'état of the 2nd of December, 1851, applied to three categories of persons:—1. Those who took part in the insurrection against Louis Napoleon, President of the Republic, and who were ordered to be transported to French Guiana—namely, the representatives Marc Dufraisse, Greppo, Miot, Mathé, and Richarlet. 2. The representatives of the Legislative Assembly who were expelled for an indefinite period from France, Algeria, and the colonies—namely, Victor Hugo, Scholcher, De Flotte, Esquiros, Charra, and fifty-nine others. 3. The representatives expelled temporarily—namely, MM. Duvergier de Hauranne, Creton, General de Lamoricière, General Changarnier, Buzé, General Leflo, General Bedeau, Thiers, Chambolle, Charles de Rémusat, Jules de Lasteyrie, Emile de Girardin, General Laidet, Pascal Duprat, Edgar Quinet, Anthony Thourout, V. Chauffour, and Versigny. Of the second category of representatives, four—Joignaux, Theodore Bac, Dupont (de Bussac), and Mathieu (de la Drome), have already been authorised to return to France; and of the third, the only ones who remain in exile are Generals Changarnier and Bedeau, and MM. Pascal Duprat, E. Quinet, and Versigny. The decree applies to condemnations for offences of the press, and, consequently, to Proudhon; also to all the persons who were arrested after the attempted assassination of the Emperor on the 14th of January, 1858."

A MELANCHOLY AFFAIR.—At St. Gall, in Switzerland, a young workman and workwoman were married, and went with their friends to a public-house to eat the wedding feast. When the mirth was at its height the report of a gun was heard, and the young husband, struck in the head by a ball, fell dead. The same ball before hitting him grazed his wife's neck, and, after passing through his head lodged in the shoulder of one of the guests. It turned out that the fatal shot was fired by a workman named Boppart quite unintentionally. He was a friend of the newly-married couple, and being about to join the wedding party, thought fit to fire his gun in their honour. By mistake he charged it with ball cartridge. Boppart was so affected at the fatal event, and at the comments made on it by the townspeople, that next day he drowned himself.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—The total number of persons killed by railway accidents in the United Kingdom in the six months ended the 30th of June last was 128. The number injured from the same cause during the same period was 198. Of the killed only one was a passenger, whose death was to be attributed to causes beyond his own control; eight were killed by their own misconduct or want of caution; nine were railway servants, killed by causes beyond their own control; 51 were killed in consequence of their own misconduct or want of caution. The number of persons killed in Ireland during the same period was 13, and in Scotland 16. The total length of railways opened for traffic in the United Kingdom on the 30th of June last was 9796 miles, as against 9268 on the 30th of June, 1858.

ANNUAL REPORT OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

Few of the reports which are annually addressed to the Home Secretary contain more interesting information than that wrapped up in the black pages of figures of which the thick blue book on this subject, issued by the Registrar General, mainly consists. Many curious facts are adduced from them. The connection between the prices of corn and the number of marriages which take place in a year is shown to exist in a very surprising degree. In seven years, when the price of wheat was 66s. 3d. on an average, there were 1936 marriages by banns to 1000 by licence; in the five years when wheat was 52s. 1d. there were 5469 marriages by banns to 1000 by licence; and in the five years when wheat averaged 12s. 9d. there were 5530 marriages by banns to 1000 by licence. During the year 318,194 persons were married. The births of 663,071 children, and the deaths of 419,815 persons of all ages, were registered. The births were in excess by 243,256, which is somewhat below the number expressing the real increase of the population, as, owing to a defect in the Registration Act, all the births are not registered. The recorded increase of the population of England and Wales exceeded 666 daily. The births in 1858 exceeded by 5618 the births in 1856, and the deaths also exceeded the deaths in that year by a much larger number—namely, 29,309.

Of the marriages, 131,031 were celebrated according to the rite of the Established Church, and 28,066 otherwise. Upon comparing the results with the returns of the previous year it appears that the marriages according to the rites of the Established Church decreased to the extent of 2588, while the marriages in the registered places and registration offices increased from 25,718 to 28,066, being 9 per cent in excess of the former number. The marriages in Roman Catholic places of worship were 7360, being less by 167 than those of the previous year. Sixty-seven marriages were contracted within the year by members of the Society of Friends, and 311 by Jews, the former less by five, and the latter less by one, than the number in the previous year. It also appears that 8885 men and 28,798 women married under twenty-one of age. The details of remarriages are rather interesting. It seems that 21,872 widowers and 14,487 widows married during the year. Out of 100 men, 14 were widowers and 86 bachelors. Of every 100 women married 9 were widows and 91 spinsters; 5908 bachelors married widows; 14,293 widowers married spinsters; and 7579 widowers married widows.

In signing the marriage registers, 115,081 men wrote their names, 44,013 made their marks, while 97,332 women wrote their names, and 61,765 made their marks. Of the men 28 per cent, and of the women 39 per cent, could only make their mark. In 1846, 67 men, in 1857, 72 men in every 100 wrote their names; the proportion of women writing rose in the same period from 52 to 61.

PAUPERISM IN 1858.

THE gratification expressed in the Royal Speech at the general well-being and contentment pervading the kingdom receives a signal illustration from the latest report of the Poor-law Board. That department of our Administration applies from month to month an infallible gauge to the prosperity of the community. In the figures which it publishes and the calculations which it suggests we can ascertain, without risk of error, the actual condition of the population and the sufficiency or insufficiency of work and wage. The spectacle can never be absolutely an agreeable one, and indeed it is seldom that we escape the taunts of foreigners when it is presented to public view. We have the consolation, however, of reflecting that to this publicity itself is due the chief share of the stigma, and that England appears oppressed by pauperism, not because pauperism is a purely English evil, but because in England only it is recognised and grappled with. We have the further satisfaction, too, of marking the decline of the malady, and of assuring ourselves that, while none of its consequences are concealed, they are gradually assuming a less serious aspect.

In the year ending with Lady-day, 1858, the gross sum expended for the relief of the poor in England and Wales was less than the sum devoted to the same purposes in the year preceding. That is the main fact; but it is only by a more particular exposition that its true import will be seen. The decrease itself was not large—only some £20,000 upon a total of some £3,000,000—and it must be understood that the "Relief of the Poor" comprises many branches of expenditure besides the direct maintenance of paupers. Workhouses have to be built, repaired, or enlarged, officers' salaries to be paid, pauper lunatics to be cared for, children to be instructed, and many minor charges defrayed. No doubt these contingencies would, in the long run, be proportioned to the general extent of pauperism; but, as they furnish on the whole about 30 per cent. of the gross charges, it will be readily discerned that in particular years they may expand the totals to a sum which would not have been constituted by the actual pauperism of the period. Again, provisions may be 50 per cent. cheaper in one year than in another, and, though such cheapness would usually diminish the number of applicants for relief, it might possibly cover an actual increase in those numbers, as the charge for the year would be less even if the paupers were more numerous. To get at the real truth, therefore, we must examine the figures before us in various ways, and thus eliminate, one by one, the chances of error.

The difference between £5,878,286, the exact sum expended in 1858, and £5,898,756, the exact charge for 1857, is certainly, as we have admitted, not considerable; but it would have been greater if a temporary increase of pauperism in the manufacturing districts, consequent on the panics of 1857, had not pulled down the more favourable returns which the great majority of the counties afforded. If we extend our survey, too, so as to obtain a more distinct contrast, we observe that pauperism cost us more in the year 1834, with a population of only 14,000,000, than it did last year, when the population was 20,000,000; so that the evil has by no means increased with the increasing numbers of the community. Proceeding, again, to the separation and analysis of these great items, we can convince ourselves instantly of the reality of the improvement by remarking that, both for in-maintenance and out-relief, the charges of 1858 are below those of 1857. In the actual numbers of persons receiving relief—all classes included—the 1st of January, 1859, showed a decrease of more than nine per cent, when compared with the 1st of January, 1858; and, what is still more to the purpose, this decrease was larger still in the case of that class—the class of able-bodied adults—which furnishes the best criterion of all. Here the diminution, instead of being only 9 per cent, was 19. A calculation of the mean numbers receiving relief at one time does not give so immediately favourable a result, since 1857 shows rather better from this point of view than 1858. If we extend the retrospect, however, we shall regain our confidence in a moment, for the average number of all classes of paupers has in nine years decreased 16 per cent, while that of able-bodied paupers has fallen 32 per cent.

It deserves to be noticed that the metropolis has enjoyed its full share of the recent improvement; in fact, with three exceptions only, every single week of the year under review shows a reduction in the numbers relieved when compared with the corresponding week of the year preceding. As many, indeed, as thirty-three counties or districts show a positive improvement, while fourteen only exhibit a contrary tendency; and of these Chester, Nottingham, and Lancaster alone present a serious deterioration. If we recall the financial alarms and distresses which characterised the autumn of 1857 we shall be at no loss to appreciate the reality of the prosperity which could carry us so well through so trying a period. The price of wheat has not been much in our favour. It was lower in 1857 and 1858 than in 1855 and 1856, but it was higher last year than in any year between 1849 and 1854, whereas in those years the number of paupers was greater. Altogether, we cannot hesitate to conclude that the country is well to do, that work is remunerative, and that distress is rare.

A STATUE OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT was inaugurated on Monday in the Arboretum at Nottingham; Mr. Ernest Jones made a speech to a large assembly of the working classes.

THE CARRON COMPANY.—SERIOUS ACCUSATIONS.

A SUMMONS issued against the Carron Iron Company promises another remarkable case in commercial jurisprudence. It appears that the company was incorporated in 1773, with a capital of £150,000 in 600 shares of £250 each, for the manufacture of iron, and its principal works have been at Carron, near Falkirk, with an agency in London. The business has been conducted by a general manager, who, according to the terms of copartnership, was subject to the control of general meetings. For nearly forty years—that is from 1786 to 1825—this post was held by a Mr. Joseph Stainton. Upon his death this person was succeeded by a nephew, Mr. Joseph Dawson, while another nephew, Mr. William Dawson, became assistant manager. A third nephew and a cousin were the agents respectively at Glasgow and Liverpool; and a brother, Mr. Henry Stainton, was agent in London. In 1850 Mr. Joseph Dawson died, and Mr. William Dawson then assumed sole control. This he still retains, and hence for seventy-three years the family appear to have had the establishment in their hands. From these circumstances arises the singular story which, through a process just instituted in the Scotch courts, is presented to the public.

The company, under their deed, are allowed to buy the shares of any retiring partner, and it seems that the managers have steadily availed themselves of this faculty. From 1830 to 1851 the Messrs. Dawson, it is said, have not permitted any share to be purchased by any stranger or partner other than a member of the families of Stainton or Dawson, and the charge now is that, "by means of false balances, abstracts, and accounts, and a general system of misrepresentation and concealment, the shareholders were kept in ignorance of the true value of the stock, and were thus induced to sell their shares at prices greatly below their actual worth." Among others, in 1847, Colonel Maclean was led to sell twenty shares at £700 each, and he accordingly brings an action to have the sale and transfer set aside, and to be reinstated in possession, on the ground that it was by false and fraudulent pretensions that they were obtained from him. In his "summons" (which, it must of course be borne in mind, is as yet entirely *ex parte*) he alleges as follows:—"Although the provisions of the deed required the appointment of committees for the examination of accounts, no such committee had been appointed since 1813; half-yearly balance-sheets were made out, but in these the annual profits and the assets were systematically put down at far less than their proper amount. Thus, in the ten years from 1829 to 1838 there were, it is averred, under-statements to the extent of £175,119, the profits being represented as £118,925, instead of £294,543. Mr. Joseph Dawson used to send to Mr. Henry Stainton, the agent in London, and brother to Mr. Dawson's predecessor in the management, 'trial balance-sheets' which were correct, and these were then altered and adjusted to meet the object in view. In 1826 Mr. Joseph Dawson, it is alleged, wrote to his 'dear uncle' that the balance then prepared showed profits amounting to £15,085. 'This,' he said, 'we propose to reduce by transferring £250 from flask goods to pig iron, and reducing the value of the pig iron inventory to that extent; also by diminishing the inventory of flask goods £1000, and by transferring £1000 from general charges to the credit of timber, and deducting that amount from the timber inventory.' The total was thus brought down to £10,085. But the writer went on to suggest, as this sum was 'still rather too much,' that it might, by certain dealings with the 'insurance accounts,' be subjected to a further diminution of £1500. In reply, Mr. Henry Stainton, the uncle, is quoted to have observed that he would rather not touch the insurance accounts, as some of the partners had their eyes upon them, and that he would 'prefer operating upon the flask goods.' There was also a fund in London, known only to Stainton and the Dawsons, called the 'Secret Reserve Fund,' which amounted in 1838 to £77,792, and which is described to have been chiefly accumulated by deferring certain consignments of military stores from Carron to the Board of Ordnance in London with breakages which had never occurred. These breakages went sometimes to the extent of 25 per cent, and Mr. Henry Stainton delivered to the Board of Ordnance, and received payment for, the whole quantity sent, but remitted to Carron only the supposed proceeds of the unbroken goods.

Thus things continued, apparently, until 1850, when Joseph Dawson died, and William Dawson succeeded to the control at Carron, while Henry Stainton remained as agent in London. Dissension then, for the first time, broke out between the families of Stainton and Dawson. William Dawson, being manager, called upon Henry Stainton to account for the London fund. Stainton admitted its existence, and handed over £96,000 to the company. He died shortly afterwards, and the company made a claim on his executors for shortcomings, which was compromised last year by a payment of the enormous sum of £220,000. For three-and-twenty years, according to the narrative of Colonel Maclean, some of them have been vainly endeavouring to get information. A Mr. Romanes, in particular, used active efforts, but was always defeated. Sir James Gibson-Craig, then law agent of the company, strenuously advised that Romanes and the others should be furnished with the information desired; and in 1846 he again warned the manager at Carron of the illegality of his proceedings, protesting, at the same time, against one of the shareholders—a Miss Adie—being allowed to sell her stock to the company in total ignorance of its real value. "The account made up," said Sir James, in a private letter to Dawson in 1846, "does not disclose the state of the company's affairs, but conceals it. The debts due are overstated by £130,000. The assets are understated to a much larger amount. No one who is not a managing partner can have the least idea of the value of the stock, and I therefore think it illegal in any managing partner to buy the stock of anyone who is not a managing partner."

The foregoing details are simply an abridgement of the summons issued on the application of the complainant: it is said that a Mr. Thomas Tod, of Drygrange, is preferring a similar suit, and it is thought that other "greedy partners" or expartners will imitate the example.

RAREY AT ALDERSHOT.—For the last five or six weeks Mr. Rarey has been at Aldershot, giving lessons to classes of twenty-five of the rough-riders, fathers, riding-masters, and veterinary surgeons. All have been practically instructed in this gentleman's mode of subduing intractable animals, rendering nervous horses quiet, and curing others of individual tricks and habits. In all cases Mr. Rarey's lessons have been attended with success.

THE GOLD RETURNS OF VICTORIA.—From a circular received from Melbourne we give the following returns, omitting fractional parts. Return of gold receipts by escort since the opening of the gold-fields:—1851, 104,154 oz.; 1852, 2,039,382 oz.; 1853, 1,874,409 oz.; 1854, 1,476,666 oz.; 1855, 2,132,398 oz.; 1856, 2,625,968 oz.; 1857, 2,481,020 oz.; 1858, 2,371,268 oz.; 1859, 817,111. The total quantity of gold brought to town by escort since the discovery of gold was 15,922,379 oz.

DIABOLICAL ATTEMPT TO SET FIRE TO TWO HOUSES.—On Tuesday morning, between three and four o'clock, there was a sudden outbreak of two fires—one at Mr. Percival's, oil and colour merchant, No. 126, Bethnal-green-road, and the other at the Camden Head Tavern, No. 241, Bethnal-green-road, exactly opposite the former house. The inmates in both cases found a long stream of flame, which they succeeded in extinguishing before any large amount of damage was done. It was caused by some diabolical scoundrel, who had poured large quantities of naphtha under the doors of the before-mentioned tradesmen, and set fire to it.

SUICIDE AT BLACKFRIARS-BRIDGE.—On Wednesday morning, between one and two o'clock, another suicide was committed by a gentleman whose name is at present unknown, by jumping off Blackfriars-bridge. He was observed by a policeman on duty loitering on the bridge, when he suddenly ran into one of the recesses, got upon the parapet, and, before the policeman had time to reach him, jumped off into the river and sank instantly. The body has not been recovered.

CAUTION TO PORTERS.—On Wednesday, as Thomas Dunning, a porter in the service of Mrs. Seale, a laundress, of Hampstead, was occupied in delivering baskets of linen in the neighbourhood of Russell-square, he incautiously left his truck at the door of a house in Woburn-place while he received payment of a bill. On his return he was informed by a gentleman passing at the moment that a man had alighted from a chair-cart, secured one of the baskets, and driven rapidly off in the direction of Camden-town before an alarm could be raised or the porter advised of his loss. The abstracted basket contained expensive articles of French attire, the property of a lady residing in Tavistock-square.

Literature.

Friends in Council: a Series of Readings and Discourses thereon.
A New Series. 2 Vols. London: Parker.

WHATEVER good work may be "double" in literature at the present day by a wise, tender, genial scepticism, is being done by the writings of Mr. Helps. To the lowest gulf of scepticism—which is cynicism and despair of the better sort—he has never come, never will or can come, for long together. In "Oulita" he approached it very closely; and a certain thinness of conviction and levity of manner traceable in the present volumes are not very good signs of what Mr. Dunsford would call "growth in grace." But whatever hesitancy as to ways and means, and whatever vagueness as to moral boundary-lines may appear in the writings of Mr. Helps, a persuasion or an instinct that for everything there is a possible better (however to be come at) is always rising to the surface of his doubts. In candour and tolerance he stands alone among the critics of life and conduct, and what a subtle heaven of interrogation he must be infusing into the minds of dogmatists! There is not one single article in the creed of the modern respectable Englishman—not a single notion dear to "an enlightened British jury"—which has not been slyly queried by the author of "Companions of My Solitude." In how many drawing-rooms has he sown the seeds of social revolution, under the very noses of the most jealous of parents and guardians! In how many more will the two volumes before us tend to induce or tend to cultivate that habit of looking at a subject all round which distinguishes the thinker from the fool, and is the beginning of improvement in conduct! It is incalculable how much good (mingled with bad, of course, like all that is human) comes of this mild, discursive wisdom, falling like a gentle rain upon the land, and subtly penetrating the most unlikely soils.

We have to charge Mr. Helps with a good deal of self-repetition. It is true, all men with brains worth a halfpenny are self-repeaters, and perhaps there are not twenty good ideas in the universe; but when the idea is not weighty we do not expect to see it too often in print from the same hand. Apropos of rapid travelling in a postchaise with a pretty woman, we were told in "Companions of My Solitude" that the pretty woman had better be left out, and that is not so long ago that we needed reminding of it again in this new series of "Friends in Council." Has the author ever had any very special experience with a pretty woman in a postchaise going fifteen miles an hour, which has burnt into his memory the reflection that rapid locomotion in a springing vehicle, *plus Beauty* in a bonnet, is something *de trop*? Perhaps, the gulf placed between the upper and lower classes by the uncleanliness of the latter is so important a commonplace as to bear any amount of reiteration; and a resort to the calm, starry sky for quiet encouraging thoughts so natural and so delightful, that it may be reported any number of times without offence. So we will pass those matters; but, upon the whole, Mr. Helps runs some risk of tiring vulgar readers by his reproductions of his former self. It matters little or nothing to men of culture and faculty, but fools revolt at it; and fools constitute an alarming proportion of every man's public.

Three of the Essays before us are on tangible public topics, which are discussed with a directness and deliberation, neither given nor called for, in regard to the other topics chatted over. Let us do Mr. Helps and our readers the injustice (we are in an Ellesmerean mood, being a sympathetic critic) of trying to sketch one or two of the three. Take, for instance, the Essay on Government:—

A great deal, says Mr. Milverton, may be done by good government. This requires frequent repetition, because many people seem to think the function of government is *laissez-faire*. [Many people not only think so, Mr. Milverton, but hold it to be demonstrable; and they are not to be dealt with by mere repetition.] Take, for instance, railways: how they have been muddled by being interfered with too late! [How they have been muddled, says a sage of the other side, *by being interfered with at all*.] Consider, again, how the work of Parliament is falling behindhand, and what a bother continuation-bills are! [Ah! consider how our own work at home is falling behindhand; and, as for continuation-bills, with interest—] Then there is finance. Since 1833 our estimates are immensely increased, and "there is every prospect of a continued increase for the purposes of war." Admitting the necessity of all this, there is still "large room for financial skill." Now, what is to be done? The first thing is to get able men into office, and give them power enough. The House of Commons is getting the work all into its own hands, and doing it very badly. Now, "this being the state of things, there remain but three courses—Sir Robert Peel's three courses." First, you may leave things alone, to work themselves out amidst much misery and with long delay. This will never do. Secondly, you may strengthen the Executive Government: for instance, by the addition of able councillors to the various public departments. Thirdly, you may provide, in any reconstitution of the House of Commons, for the introduction of statesmen, of men of real public ability. Then you must remember that we are a great empire, and must find out some way of attaching the able men of the colonies to our councils; and generally of opening the career of politics to disinterested ability and public spirit, with fewer restrictions as to age. And so forth. Upon which Ellesmere observes that the essay is so wise that it does not stand the least chance of being attended to, and a general conversation breaks out upon the subject of government.

Now, let us try the essay on War. There are two millions and a half of soldiers on the peace establishment of Europe, which costs Heaven knows what in pay, rations, clothing, and housing, to say nothing of the fact that these might all have been productive labourers and artisans. Nor does war in these days support war, by the spoil or otherwise. Wars of opinion are fast becoming impossible, and the doctrine of national non-interference is largely prevalent; so that, with all this vast war expenditure, the old motives for war are dying out. But statesmen say that nations should be kept in a condition "effective" for defence, in case the necessity for war should arise. Very good; let the representative military strength of the nation be kept at its minimum. Now, as to the miseries of war and their consequences—national debts, permanent embarrassments of internal resources, and distraction of mind—there is little to be said but to repeat old themes. For all the wrong that underlies these criticisms there is no specific, though mankind delights in specifics [a favourite and often-repeated remark of Mr. Helps]. The only thing to be done is to try to "induce such a state of feeling and opinion as will almost unobservedly lead to a reduction of the military establishments of Europe." The temptation to war is now but seldom that of sudden passion. Large standing armies make it easier of commencement, mankind liking to use whatever they possess. But the invading nation is now possibly the greater sufferer; and any idea of this country being invaded should not be allowed to become a bugbear. After all, there are unavoidable wars, and we "should not be niggardly in the management of our military establishments;" for "a belief throughout the humbler classes that the Government is considerate, or even generous, in such matters is actually worth a large sum of money, and is almost equal in times of peace to an additional armament." And so forth, with much wisdom, humanity, and suggestiveness of comment. But in relation to topics such as those of Government and War, many of the readers of these essays will wish the author had a little less discursiveness and a little more weight and vigour of style than he actually has, or at least than he frequently puts forward in his books.

On subjects which admit a freer play of fancy, and a grasp of facts less hard, Mr. Helps has all his old delightfulness, and is still the subtlest, the pleasantest, the tenderest, the wisest of philosophic gossipists. But before we pass to the more miscellaneous matter we will extract from the essay on Despotism a fine image, such as Mr. Helps does not often give, though "Oulita" contained one or two:—

POLITICAL POWER.

The possession of political power presents itself to my mind under this strange image. I see a female figure bearing along a vase filled with liquid fire. If she moves swiftly, however swiftly, the liquid fire remains in the vase; but if not, and the flames stream out of the vase, and fall upon the earth, they burn up all they touch, and follow on after the

figure, until at last they spring upon her fluttering garments, and she soon sinks down consumed. From her ashes rises, phoenix-like, another figure, generally quite different from the former one, in face, in form, in gesture. Meanwhile, the flames leap into the vase again; and the new figure bears on the sacred vessel, seemingly unconscious of, or unheeding, the fate of her predecessor.

You see at once how the figure that represents a Government which has grown out of turbulence will be likely to have disordered garments and a certain violence of movement and of gesture. She is soon consumed. You see other figures that spill the sacred fire from carelessness, from weakness, or from indifference to humanity. The result is happily the same in all cases. The injury done reacts upon the doer; and the miseries of mankind sooner or later find a sure avenger in the fearful liquid flames that may have destroyed their homes, their families, and all that they hold dear on earth, but which never cease to pursue the rash, feeble, or wicked figure that could not carry steadily along the celestial vase of power. And so, to my mind, there is some consolation even when I contemplate the worst of Governments, that of a despot, unrestrained by any mortal influences.

The essay on "The Miseries of Human Life" is one which we are almost tempted to say should be reprinted in the form of a tract, and circulated by millions. Take for its heart-breaking lessons—which are meant, however, not to break, but to soften your heart—this passage about

SUPPRESSED AND SECRET SORROWS.

I am very fond of dwelling upon the concrete—not talking always of virtues, vices, and miseries in the abstract, not seeking for illustrations only from large classes of mankind, but choosing individual cases, which have something typical in their character. Think of the terrible positions that there are in life amongst these individuals—of the leader, for instance, who knows or fears that all is lost, and who yet must maintain, not a gay presence, but what is far more difficult, an equable and cheerful bearing; and this too perhaps for days, weeks, and months. The general rides down the lines before battle, sitting erectly, looking cheerfully, uttering on all sides words of high encouragement. All the while he knows that he is outnumbered, outmanoeuvred, and that the faint cloud of dust in the dim distance, if it indicate the approach of a new body of troops, cannot be succour for him, but may be reinforcements for the enemy. In his tent, he may for a minute or two bow down his head over the wooden table covered with maps and despatches, and, enjoying for that brief space the luxury of being honestly wretched, utter a deep sigh, and wish to himself that it were all over, and that he were in his grave, where he might never hear the hasty obloquy that will be poured out upon him by this unfortunate campaign. But now there is the sound of an aide-de-camp's foot approaching, and the general starts up again, bright and confident in appearance, and ready to issue clear and decisive commands. There is some grandeur in this position; but in others closely resembling it there are sordidness and sinfulness, and every kind of abject misery, which yet must be glossed over or hidden by apparent cheerfulness and constant readiness of resource. The trader trembling on bankruptcy, the head or the moving personage in some great commercial concern tottering to its fall, what a part he has to perform! Cheering the dubious, encouraging the timid, overcoming the scrupulous, scattering everywhere hopes and expectations which he knows full well are for the most part fallacious or mendacious—what an agony of acting is his! The bubble bursts, and on every side arise fierce obloquies, and just threats of condign punishment. Joining fully in much of this condemnation I never can avoid thinking of, and taking into some account, the supreme wretchedness which the chief actors must often have endured in this sordid battle.

But take a case in which there is nothing to blame. Instead of being at the bottom of this amphitheatre (which, by the way, is not without gloomy suggestions of its own), imagine that we were perched upon some great height, as we were at Salzburg the other day. Hundreds of persons in the specks of habitations we survey must be cheering and encouraging others, and maintaining hopeful countenances, whilst hope is almost dead in themselves. The head of the family, or the consoling person on whom all rely, sits by the bed of sickness, and does not dare to show by the slightest sign the agony of fear that is within him. Men or women in such positions can even stifle, or breathe softly, the sighs which the oppressed heart must utter, but which none else must hear; and during weary days, and still more weary nights, maintain hope, encouragement, and activity in a household that would absolutely droop and collapse without their presence.

Then, turning to quite a new point of view, take the position of a hypocrite, oftentimes an enforced position. He would give the world perhaps to be known as he is, and to be freed from the horrible burden of undue reputation. But think of the inconsistency of men's characters, and how they really are good and sincere and upright in one direction, and vicious, tortuous, and unjust in another direction. "That which I would not, that I do." Think what a battle such a man has with himself, and in a world which demands consistency, and insists upon completeness of character—in others; and, if it discover any streaks of black, is apt to believe that there is and never has been any white.

Then take the position, not abject, nor sinful, but very heartbreaking, of the man of wide insight, foresight, and knowledge, who knows what should be done in great matters, but is almost powerless to control them, and passes his life in remonstrances and endeavours to enlighten others, being all the time obliged perhaps to carry into execution small and incomplete measures which he knows will be ineffective. Such a man is but too apt to become sour and censorious, and at last perhaps to give up the aims of his life in sheer despair.

I have not touched upon the wretched positions of those persons who have to teach what they do not thoroughly believe; or of those persons who are so combined with others that they cannot separate from them, and yet are perpetually grieved at the courses they are compelled by their partners to adopt; or the positions of those persons who go through life surrounded by an atmosphere of uncongeniality. Considering all these things, how true we find that proverb to be, "that there is a skeleton in every house;" and, as far as I have observed, it is generally a skeleton which requires to be fed and clothed—a skeleton not merely unproductive, but consuming.

What almost terrible shrewdness there is in that last observation, the skeleton that will be fed. Heaven help us! But let no man despair henceforth of sympathy, for here is pity even for the hypocrite, and we think he is entitled to it.

In the next following pages, headed "Life not so Miserable after all" (no, to be sure not!) occurs an anecdote which we have either read or heard before, and which is too good to be omitted. "He set his face against it, therefore he turned his back upon it," once said to us an illogically metaphoric friend. Here you have, at all events—

TURNING YOUR BACK ON IT.

My mother made what is called a good marriage. At that time the theatres were in their glory, and my father frequently took his young bride to see John Kemble and Mrs. Siddons. They also used to go to the Opera. My grandmother lived in a cottage (which was washed about as often as a Dutch house), a few miles from town. My father and mother naturally wished my grandmother to partake their pleasures, and they called one morning to tell her that they had secured a good box at the Opera, and that she must come with them. The story will show that she had never been at an opera before, and I doubt much whether she had ever been at a play. She consented, however, and they all went together. My grandmother cared not a straw for music, but she sat through the opera nobly, quietly, and enduringly, as an old lady would do who had seen a good deal of life, had buried two husbands, had had her troubles, and knew that it was her duty to sit patiently through a great many things that were uninteresting, or even disagreeable. Then, alas! came the ballet. She looked on that for a few minutes; then she plucked her daughter by the arm, and exclaimed passionately, "Anne, how can you look at these goings on? I am ashamed of you!" My mother, in terror, tried to pacify her. There was no getting away immediately: the carriage was not ordered till the end of the performance. My grandmother looked on for a few more minutes at the dancing hours; then, rising deliberately, she turned her ample person to the illustrious audience, and, withdrawing a few paces, sat down with her back to the stage, and remained in that position to the end of what she called "that wicked performance."

It is Ellesmere tells this story. Mr. Milverton is always on the side of toleration—latitudinarianism we are afraid the cowards would call it. Let us take a very nice little bit about

CHARACTER AND RACE.

The two things that one learns down here are great faith in the force of race, and, withal, a firm belief in the individuality of creatures. That last is the main thing. When we see how different each of these inferior creatures is from all the rest, we may form some little notion how different each one of us is from all the rest, though we pretend to be alike, and try to be alike, and make believe, even to ourselves, that we are alike. Trace up all intolerance and it comes mainly to this, that the intolerant person believes that other people are just like himself, or, if not, that he must have made so. They must be immediately cast into his mould, or he will know the reason why.

Then as to race. Do you see that curiously speckled hen? She is of a very peculiar character, most tender to her own off-spring, most malignant to the offspring of all other feathered creatures. So was her mother before her, and so I suspect will be one of her little ones that is exactly like her now. My man is always urging me to get rid of the whole breed, to which I invariably reply, "Not till Mr. Buckle has seen them." He imagines

Mr. Buckle to be a great poultry-fancier; but I allude to the ingenious, bold, and learned author of the "History of Civilisation," who, in my judgment, makes too little of the effect of race; and I shall not be satisfied until I have had a long talk with him in this spot, and, with the aid of John, have illustrated my view of the subject by commenting upon the nature of the cows, pigs, hens, and ducks, of this farm-yard. [Here John came and whispered something to his master.] No, John; this is Mr. Midhurst, and not the great poultry-fancier whom you are anxious to see.

One of the pleasantest things in the book is this

SPECULATION OF THE AGE OF THE WORLD.

ELLESMERE—I have the greatest faith, as everybody knows, in the opinions of learned men like Dunsford, even when the learned men differ totally in opinion from one another. *A fortiori*, therefore, I am convinced that the chronology usually accepted by learned men must be right. If, however, I were to trust my own unassisted intellect I should conclude, from what I have just observed at our *table d'hôte*, that the world was at least five hundred and fifty-seven thousand two hundred and thirty-three years old. I am particular, gentlemen, about the last-named figure—the figure three—because I observe that all great chronologists are particular about the small figures.

Mr. MIDHURST—Differing with Ellesmere in the small figures, I agree with him as regards the half-million. The world could never have come to its present state of folly in a few thousand years.

DUNSFORD—What is all this about? What do you mean, Ellesmere?

ELLESMERE—The earliest records show, do they not, my learned friend, that salt was always a prime requisite with the human race? After the lapse of innumerable ages came salt-cellar; but you will still observe that, in several of the most civilised parts of the earth, the inhabitants have not yet arrived at the use of salt-spoons. You may travel through the greater part of this large continent, beholding superb edifices and wondrous works of art, but without having the good fortune to meet with a single salt-spoon. Now, when you consider that these regions have been traversed constantly during the last thirty years by persons belonging to a nation so advanced in the arts of life that they habitually use salt-spoons, and who must often have mentioned this remarkable fact to the natives, I leave you to guess what time it must have taken for savages to have advanced from fingers to knives and forks.

Mr. MIDHURST—I often feel a great pity for the intelligent people we are at present travelling amongst, when I reflect that not one of them has ever been in a bed, at least in his own country; for we cannot admit that the thing they call a bed is a bed.

ELLESMERE—You will all come round to my views of chronology. One of the few sharp things that Milverton has said, when I have not been by to assist him, is—"What a wonderful inventor that man must have been who first contrived a wheel!" And I have no doubt that the sound, thriving, well-to-do people of his day maintained that he was a dangerous fool, that the Church ought to see about burning him (you may be sure it did its duty), and that burdens might be much more safely and expeditiously carried on the back, or dragged along the ground, as they always had been. Now, shall we allow thirty thousand years for the gradual introduction of the wheel, considering how much there doubtless was to be said against it upon the good old principles of Church and State?

But, in point of fact, it is not always, or generally, because they are opposed that new good things do not come in. They are kept out for want of something happening to bring them in. With all our talk of what we will do and what we won't do, we are poor, fortuitous creatures, and the best things in the lives of individuals and of the race are just like picking up a sovereign in the street—a comparison not suggested to us, we beg to observe, by any actual occurrence.

From the essay on "Pleasantness" we extract this splendid sentence:—"There is a gift that is almost a blow, and there is a kind word that is munificence: so much is there in the way of doing things." Over against which we beg to place the following:—"Always say an ill-natured thing to a man when you can: it may come in at a time when he is inflated by prosperity, and may do him a great deal of good."

Ellesmere says he should like to have some "striking calumny" current about himself; for then he should see who were his friends, and who were not! But how true is the following, about

THE GOOD OF CALUMNY.

MILVERTON—See the good that she has done: consider the comfort she has been to mankind. She makes men happy by giving them a grievance. Suppose she were not calumny, but truth! Even the worst of us, forgetting what might truly be said against us, rejoice in the fact that the things that are said are for the most part calumnious. The bandit, to whom seventeen murders are charged, admits that he has had three or four "accidents," but appeals to his wife whether he is not a calumniated man, and feels that society has done him a great wrong in charging the whole seventeen upon him.

Now consider the moon. We began by knowing nothing of her merits or demerits. She was highly lauded by poets; but she was very often deeply calumniated. Fickle, changeful, inconstant, were adjectives often applied to her. Strange, and not very creditable stories, were invented about her amours. Then comes the astronomer. He tells us, it is true, of her merits and uses, but he takes a great deal of the poetry away from her. He treats her, perhaps, as a fragment split off from the earth; he prys into her adust surface of extinct volcanoes; and, altogether, the moon, I imagine, would rather have been calumniated as fickle, amorous, inconstant, than truthfully mapped out by the astronomer royal. Depend upon it, there is not one of us who will bear as much looking into as the moon, and who had not better be contented with the calumnies uttered about him than run any risk of the truth being noised about. Besides, we all enjoy the advantage of having a grievance.

Who is there that has not at some time in his life fancied he would rather take his chance of calumny than have the truth told about him? But such fancies are only fancies, for the whole truth would necessarily be to every man's advantage, if it could be told. If you are worse than your neighbour thinks you, you are also better. Of course the result would be unfair if he knew you one way and not the other.

There is lovemaking in these new sketches; but it is not very interesting. It is never satisfactory when a man who has had a great love—like Ellesmere's for Gretchen—takes up with a less in after years. We wish Mildred joy; but we recollect who it was that said to Milverton,—"Not being a philosopher or a philanthropist, I do not easily forget those I once care for." If this should meet the eye of Lady Ellesmere she will know her cue, and, we doubt not, profit by the knowledge.

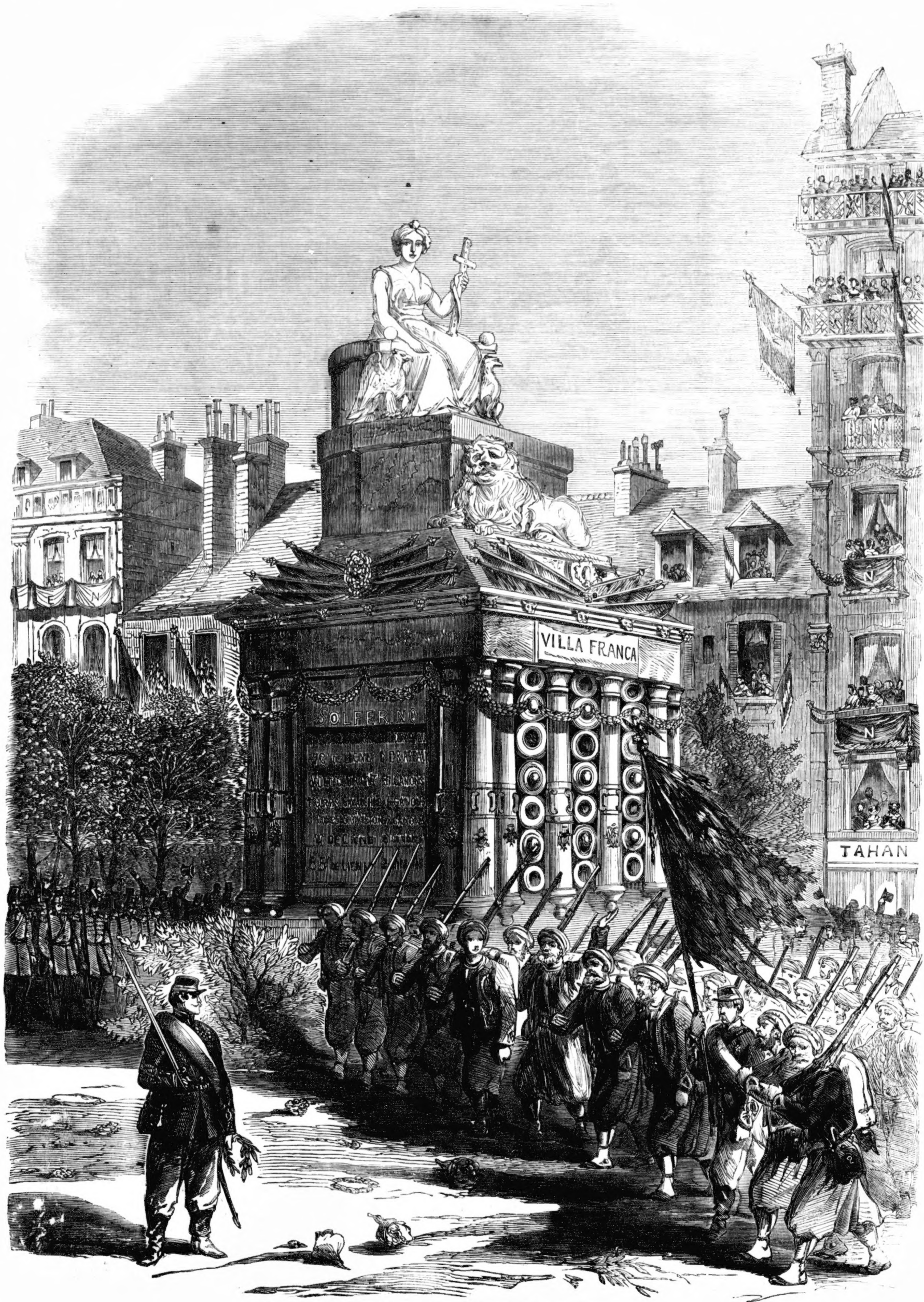
GREY POWDER.—During the trial of Dr. Smethurst Dr. John Lewis Thudicome said "he had made an analysis of grey powder, and found that it contained, among a number of other materials, arsenic and antimony. . . . The grey powder he analysed was the description that was given to children. . . . He was sorry to say it was a medicine constantly given to children, in doses of from half-a-grain to three or four grains." Dr. James Reid replies to this statement through the *Times*, and denies that grey powder, which he speaks favourably of, contains arsenic or antimony in any proportion whatever.

DISCONTENT IN H.M.S. MARLBOROUGH.—As the British squadron was lying near Naples, a portion of the crew of the flagship Marlborough (Captain Lord J. H. Kerr) showed symptoms of mutiny by rolling shot about and throwing some at the petty officers. The Admiral addressed the crew, ordered them to their respective messes, and requested a written statement of their grievances, which differed materially. Some complained of interrupted rest, others of unnecessary duty, and most refusal of leave. Several of the ringleaders were put in irons.

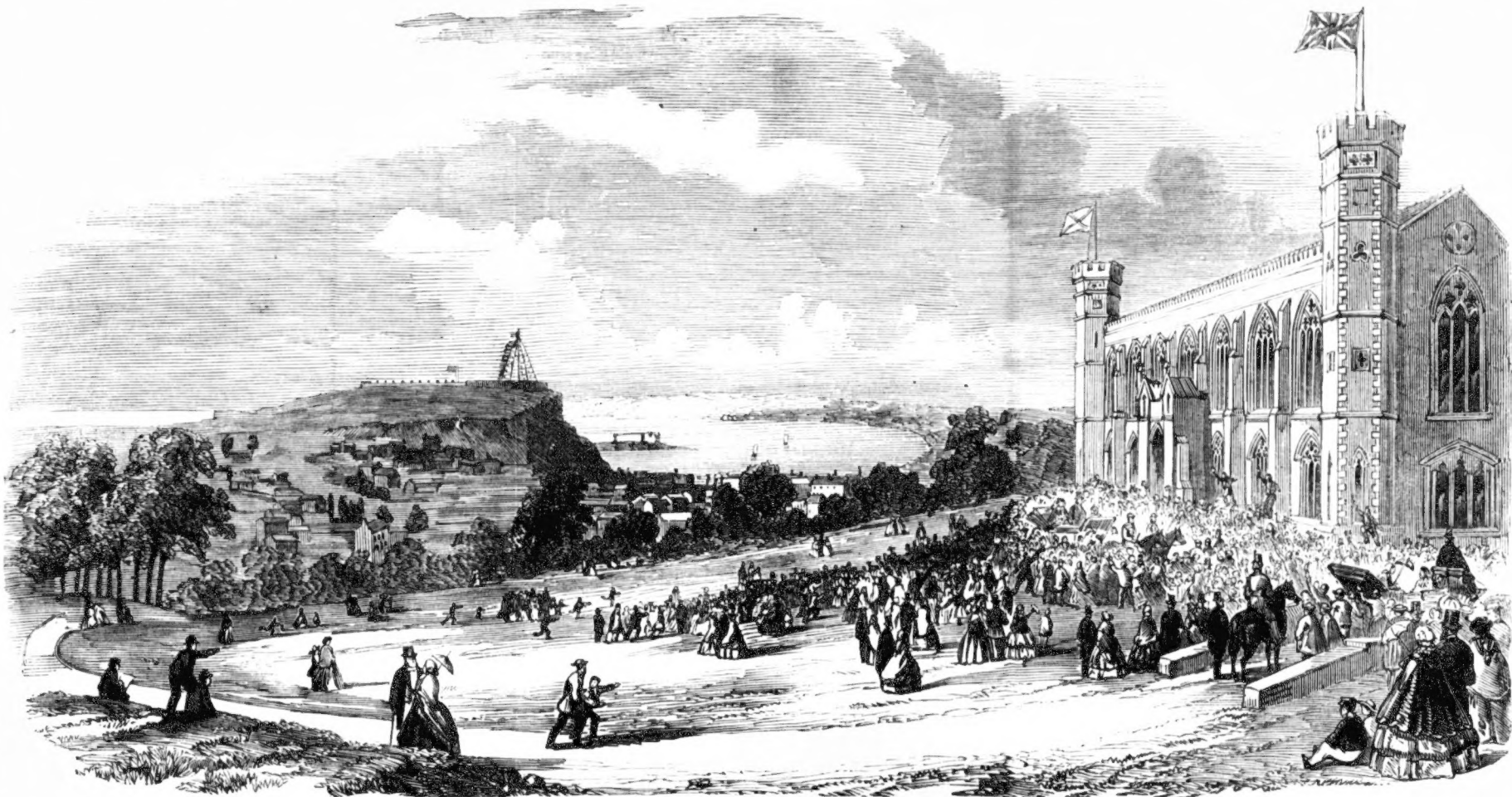
GROWTH OF BRITISH SHIPPING.—In proof of the growing extent of British steam-shiping, it is only necessary to compare the entrances and the clearances of British steam tonnage within the past few years. In 1849 the entries were 734,763 tons; in 1858 they were 1,756,664 tons. In the same years respectively, the clearances were 694,044 tons, and 1,727,727 tons—showing a ratio of increase on entries in the period of nine years of 139 per cent, and on clearances an increase of 149 per cent, being an aggregate tonnage movement of nearly two millions of steam-shiping.

SKETCHES ON BOARD THE "GREAT EASTERN."

WE again recur to that inexhaustible subject for illustration, the Great Eastern. The two Engravings on the following page are calculated to give our readers a good notion of the proportions of the monster ship. A regiment of soldiers might be drilled on her after-deck, and cavalry even find room to make a charge. We do not make this assertion in connection with the "Horse Marines." Just look at her enormous hawse-holes, and the tremendous cable that passes through them. Is it not enough to bring you to an anchor in sheer wonderment? But we have not done with the floating citadel yet. In succeeding Numbers we intend illustrating some of the many interesting features in her internal economy.



THE PARIS FETES—THE ARMY OF ITALY DEFILING BEFORE THE STATUE OF PEACE.



HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO VICTORIA COLLEGE, JERSEY.—[FROM A SKETCH BY J. F. DRAPEL.]—SEE PAGE 133.

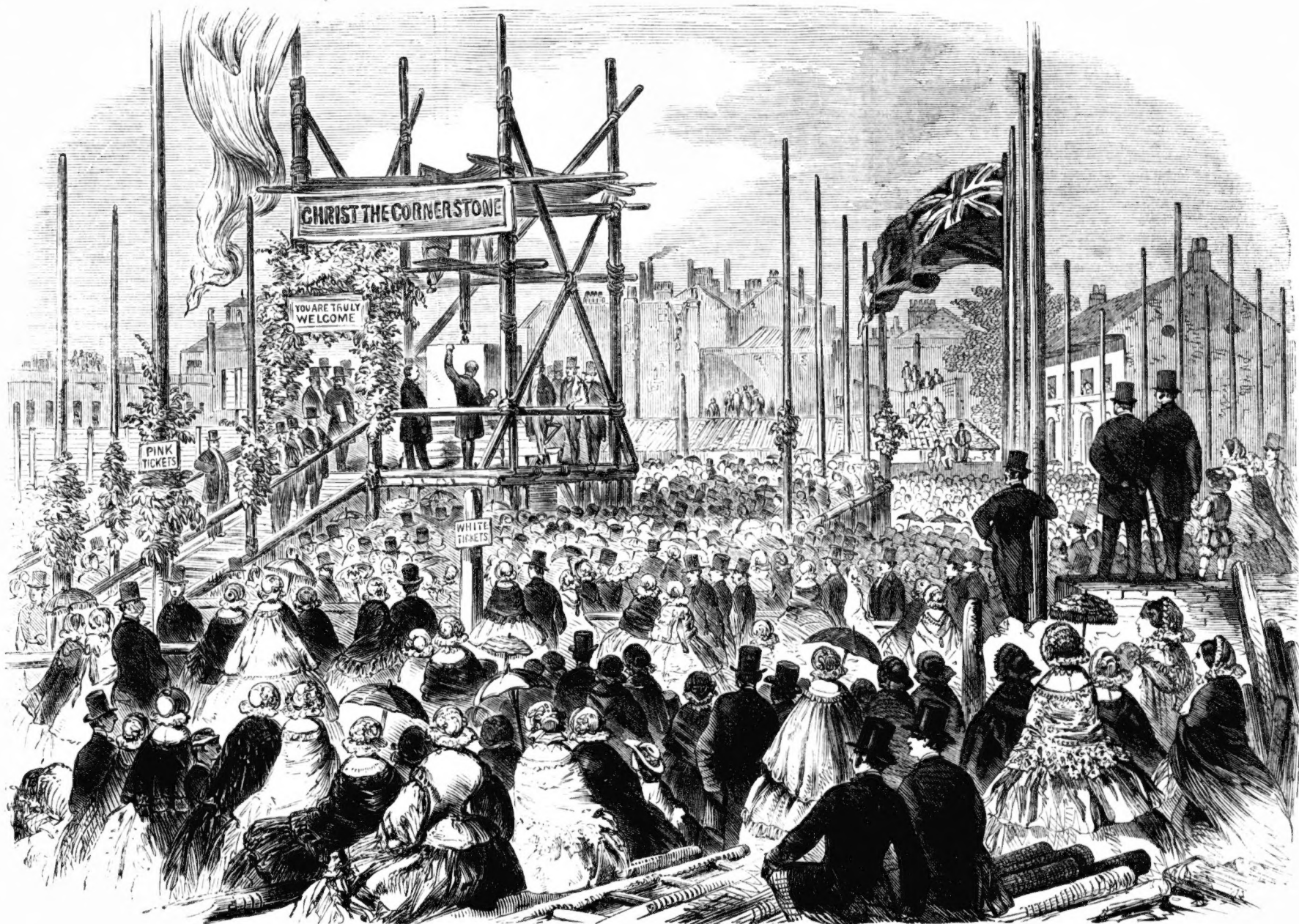
TROOPS DEFILING BEFORE THE STATUE OF PEACE.

ONE of the most important decorations on the Paris boulevards during the late military fêtes was the gigantic statue of Peace, closing in, as it were, the line of procession, which otherwise would have appeared to break off suddenly as it turned into the Rue de la Paix. The design—due to the fecund imagination of M. Baltard, the architect to the city of Paris, who so greatly distinguished himself during the Queen's visit to the Emperor Napoleon—was of a most imposing character. Around the base was arranged a perfect forest of flowers, which, com-

bined with the rose tint of the imitation granite pedestal, produced a singularly beautiful effect. On that portion of the pedestal shown in our Illustration were enumerated the number of cannons and flags taken from the enemy at Solferino; while on the opposite side were similar details respecting the victories of Palestro, Turbigo, Magenta, and Melegnano. The troops passing in front of the statue are the 2nd Regiment of Zouaves, who so greatly distinguished themselves at Magenta; with them is borne their flag, which the Emperor caused to be decorated by Marshal M'Mahon after that hardly-contested battle.

We may express the hope that the peace of Europe may be more permanent and durable than the symbol raised on the Paris boulevards, every trace of which has already disappeared from the site on which it stood.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, says rumour, is about to bring an action for the restitution of Cardinal Richelieu's head, which was cut off when the mob broke into the chapel of the Sorbonne, at the time of the great Revolution, and has hitherto been kept as an heirloom in the family of a deputy into whose hands it fell.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF MR. SPURGEON'S NEW TABERNACLE.—SEE PAGE 133.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1859.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

It is only when we come to quite modern times that we find such an amount of social information about a people as is afforded by the Registrar-General's late report. What with regard to ancient epochs has to be painfully gathered out of the hints of chroniclers and the indirect *unintentional* statements of other writers, is fully and accurately stated in the language of business in that annual blue-book—the most sentimental blue-book of the year. Let us dip into it for a moment, and bring out a handful or two of facts about the history of our generation.

In the first place, the figures indicating the great facts of the subject are satisfactory. The marriage rate and birth rate were above the usual average, and the death rate below it. On the whole, therefore, the year chronicled here was a favourable one to the people of England, which amounted in numbers to more than nineteen millions. When we remember that the population at the Conquest was about two millions, we form a notion of the spread of our race and tongue almost bewildering.

Looked at alongside the numbers of the whole people, those of the emigrants for any given years look small; yet emigration increased after the Russian war, and in 1857 it amounted to 86,348 persons. Of these 39,375 went to Australia, and 37,333 to the United States. The States, in fact (as has been justly observed), are still colonies, and it is still premature to test their institutions and prospects by the same standards which we apply to old and settled nations. How much of their vigour, bearing up against a climate which tries the European, must they owe to this perpetual stream of fresh blood!

Turn now to the facts about marriages, so significant, from a dozen points of view, as to the life of a people.

That the rate of marriage bears a definite ratio to the price of food is a well-known fact. It proves nothing, as some people seem to think, against the poetry of the institution, though proving the harmony with which the economical law and the sentimental law work together, viewed in the mass. The recent rate of marriages shows the average condition of the people to have been good. The forms employed by the people in marriage have significance, too. The merely civil marriage is commoner than it was, to the extent of an increase of 19 per cent—a fact significant, so far, of the waning of theological influence in matters civil and social. But the great mass of the people still justly view the institution as a religious one, fundamentally; and, amongst religious bodies, the Church has an advantage, in point of numbers of marriages, of 82 to 18. This does not, perhaps, prove a corresponding ascendancy of the Church in all the great features of life; but it is important as an indication of its social influence, too.

The relative proportions of widowers married to that of widows, &c., is perhaps curious in its way, and may supply our more trivial contemporaries with a crop of jokes. It is more important to note the fact that there were 44,013 men and 61,765 women married, during a single twelvemonth, who could not write their names. What amount of ignorance must prevail—taking all shades of it, from this dark one up—we leave the reader to guess. We are, indeed, told that a general improvement is discernible; but, for an improvement keeping very much ahead of the increase of population, we suspect we shall have to wait.

Meanwhile it is distinctly pointed out that where ignorance is deepest amongst the women, early marriages are commonest, and youthful mortality also in proportion. This, of course, is a fact (if we wanted facts) in favour of education. But, still, education alone will not cure such things; and, indeed, education alone is a kind of nullity everywhere. The real lesson of such a fact is that we must raise the condition of these classes generally, taking education as the finer and more intellectual part of the process. Such movements are slow, and tedious, and difficult, and perpetually gained upon by the spread of population bringing in new material on them. But there is probably no district where some marked improvement might not be produced in a few years by local energy and zeal. The Registrar-General justly directs people to study the causes of any particular evil which statistics show to be strongest in their particular region. And we may add that this time of the year—when those most responsible for the government of each district are gathered together there—is a very proper time to enforce the advice. We talk a good deal of "politics" in this country, and we shall soon have M.P. after M.P. informing his constituents why he voted thus and thus, and panegyrising or assailing Mr. Bright according to his sympathies. But the social state of the people underlies all this, and according, as it is good or bad, progresses or retrogrades, will the destiny of our institutions be.

SHIPS IN ARMOUR.—A series of experimental trials have been carried on lately at Portsmouth, with a view of ascertaining the amount of resistance offered by iron and steel plates of various manufacture when opposed to heavy ordnance at a short range. The trials are understood to have reference to the steam-ran now in course of construction. The practice was carried on from the Sterk gunboat, from a 32-pounder and a 95-cwt. gun, the latter throwing a solid 68lb. shot, with 10lb. charge of powder; the distance of range 200 yards. At this distance the results of the experiments demonstrated in the clearest possible manner that no iron or steel plate that has yet been manufactured can withstand the solid shot from the 95-cwt. gun at a short range. The first shot would not penetrate through the iron plate, but it would fracture it, and on three or four striking the plate in the same place, or in the immediate neighbourhood, it would be smashed to pieces. The trial proved that a steel-clad ship could be far more easily destroyed than a wooden-sided one. At from 600 to 800 yards iron-clad ships would be in comparative safety from the effects of an enemy's broadside, but the effects of concentrated firing have yet to be ascertained on the sides of an iron or steel-clad ship; and the present experiments would appear to prove that an iron or steel-clad ship, on receiving a concentrated broadside from a frigate, and struck near her water-line, must sink with her armour on her back.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY, now at Osborne, will leave London for Balmoral on Monday.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is to pay a visit to Canada shortly, it appears. A portion of his *entourage* sailed from Liverpool for that colony on Wednesday.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has just entered on his twenty-ninth year, having been born on August 18, 1830.

THE ARCHDUKE LOUIS VICTOR, brother of the Emperor of Austria, travelling under the name of Count de Lubbeck, is now on a tour in Belgium.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE, it is rumoured, is again *en route*.

THE SULTAN, during his visit to Salonica, being displeased with the residence set apart for him, repaired to a spot outside the town, where his tents had been pitched under the trees shading the shore. There he staid in a tent alone, and without light, up to ten o'clock.

THE PRINCE OF ORDE AND ATTENDANTS left Southampton on Saturday, for Alexandria, from whence they will depart for India. The unostentatious manner in which the Prince embarked in the Ceylon presented a striking contrast with the splendour amid which he landed at Southampton about three years since.

THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO is seriously ill. Fears are entertained of disturbances taking place in case of his death.

THE PRINCES MENSCHIKOFF, father and son, are at present in Paris.

SOME PERSONS have mistakenly supposed that the amnesty of the French Emperor extends to the Orleans family. They, as well as the Count de Chambord, are banished from France by acts of the Legislature, which cannot be set aside by an Imperial decree.

THE DUKE OF MANTONBROUGH has placed £135 to the account of the Oxford Radcliffe Infirmary, being the balance of monies received from visitors to Blenheim Palace and gardens during this season.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE J. WILSON takes his departure for India in October.

ANOTHER EXPLOSION occurred at the Faversham Powder Mills on Thursday week. No person was hurt.

MR. SMITH and the proprietors of Drury-lane Theatre are said to have reconciled their differences.

SOME YOUNG MEN WERE WRESTLING at NEWCHURCH, near BACUP, when one of them, named Edmund Lord, was thrown, received concussion of the brain, and died in a few minutes.

THE RUIN of ERZEROU has been completed by another earthquake, which occurred on the 14th ult. The loss of life is reported to have been immense.

ON SATURDAY AN ESCAPE OF GAS occurred in a house at Brompton. The servants obtained the assistance of a lamplighter to stop it; in doing so a fearful explosion occurred, and he was fatally injured; the servants also suffered severely.

A CHILD WAS LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS of ROTHESIRE in April last, and could not be found. The other day some one dreamed that he saw the body lying in a lonely place, five miles from its parent's house; and there the remains of the child were found.

THE AJAX, screw man-of-war, has been driven from Lough Foyle by the intermeddling of a Roman Catholic priest with the discipline of the men. He would insist on bringing under the notice of the Roman Catholic sailors, after service, some disputes between a Mr. Pope Hennessy and the Admiralty.

THE FRENCH ARMY, say the Paris Union, "is a model of piety. Yes, religion nowhere retains greater sway, nowhere exercises its divine influence with more consolation or power. This is what makes the army one of the chief safeguards of modern society."

THE TOWN COUNCIL of LINCOLN have passed a resolution condemning, as an inroad on local government, the appointment of a Recorder for that city without consulting them.

THE MORNING POST states that the Government, during the recess, will apply its anxious consideration to the following important topics of legal reform:—Transfer of land, the law of bankruptcy, and the systematic consolidation of the statutes.

SOME CASES of ASIATIC CHOLERA have appeared on the Tyne.

A HORSE GUARDS MEMORANDUM has been issued, ordering that the officers and men of infantry regiments shall be instructed in great gun exercise.

THE NEW ARMY HOSPITAL CORPS, which is to be raised on the disbanding of the Medical Staff Corps, will consist of 1000 non-commissioned officers and men.

THE REV. JAMES ATLEY, B.D., Senior Fellow of St. John's College, has been elected from thirty-eight candidates for the vacancy in the vicarage of Leeds.

DURING A RECENT THUNDERSTORM at DUBLIN an immense quantity of shells fell: some of them contained snails.

MR. JOHN EDWARD BULLER, of the firm of Smart and Buller, solicitors, 56, Lincoln's Inn-fields, London, has absconded, with liabilities estimated at £100,000. It is said he has misappropriated large sums intrusted to him as solicitor and trustee.

DURING THE FORTH SWIMMING MATCHES, last week, a Mr. Wilson, who won a prize, swam a distance of 47½ yards under water in nearly as many seconds.

MRS. ALFRED MELLON hurt her ankle, last week, while performing in "The Flowers of the Forest." Although (says the *Sunday Times*) suffering extreme pain, she not only went through with her part, but performed afterwards in the burlesque of "The Babes in the Wood," although she was obliged to support herself on a stick. She has not since been able to appear on the stage.

AN ORDER HAS BEEN MADE at Parkhurst barracks, Isle of Wight, to the effect that private John Selzman, having shaved his upper lip, contrary to orders, shall be confined to barracks until his moustache grows again.

LONG AND INTERESTING ACCOUNTS have been received from Stockholm of the ceremonies at the funeral of the late King. They are chiefly remarkable for their simplicity.

THE "TIMES" CORRESPONDENT at Paris is assured that very warm congratulations have been addressed on the part of Queen Victoria to the Emperor on the occasion of the amnesty.

MR. FRANCIS REPPORD, formerly member of Parliament for Worcester, and chairman of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway Company, is now an inmate of a lunatic asylum at Sutton Coldfield.

MR. C. GARDNER GUTHRIE, the distinguished surgeon, died on the 13th instant, at Clifton, where he was staying for the benefit of his health.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR HENRY BULWER met with an accident at Constantinople lately. His foot slipped on the steps which descend from the French Palace quay to the Bosphorus, and he fell with considerable violence. However, no injury of any importance was inflicted by the fall, though his Excellency seems to have been seriously shaken.

MR. HERBERT, barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple, has been appointed secretary to the Governor of Queensland (Moreton Bay), in Australia. Mr. Herbert will also hold, in the first instance, the commission of Colonial Secretary. He was private Secretary to Mr. Gladstone in Lord Aberdeen's Administration.

THE PICTURE OF THE "BIRTH OF JUPITER," in the late Lord Northwick's sale, has been purchased for the National Gallery. It cost his Lordship, we believe, £80, and was knocked down to the nation, in round numbers, at £1000.

A PROPOSAL made by the Town Council of Southampton to expend £10,000 of the Hartley bequest in erecting a public reading-room and museum has met the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

A COLossal STATUE OF THE LATE FRANK O'CONNOR has been erected in the Arboretum at Nottingham. The inauguration took place on Tuesday.

AMONG THE TALES FROM EL DORADO which tempt the Old World singers is that of the enormous sum paid to Madame Gassier at the Havannah—500 guineas a week and a free benefit.

MRS. STOWE is NOW IN ENGLAND, engaged upon her new story, "The Minister's Wooing."

THE BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its annual meeting this year at Newbury, from the 12th of September to the 17th inclusive. The Earl of Carnarvon is expected to preside.

THE ST. JAMES'S THEATRE is again to open on the 1st of October—"this one more time" on a secure basis—the performances to be devoted to "domestic drama, farce, burlesque, and pantomime."

ZECHARIAH HERMAN and JOSEPH BOOTH, convicted of "botling" an elector at the late election at Bury, have been sentenced, the one to twelve months' and the other to nine months' imprisonment.

A LARGE SOLAR SPOT, plainly visible to the naked eye, was observed on the evening of the 21st. It was situated slightly above the sun's centre.

A REWARD OF £100 has been offered by her Majesty's Government for the apprehension of George Frederick Boyd, a shoemaker, who has absconded, charged with the wilful murder of Zipporah Wright, at Poplar.

FROM PORTUGAL the accounts of the olive arcevery bad, and a very short crop is expected. The vine disease is worse than ever, and the loss in money to the farmers and to the country generally will be very great.

CAPT. HALL, THE UNFORTUNATE AERONAUT, who fell out of the balloon on Monday week, died on the Friday following. During his illness his continual terror in delirium was lest he should be carried in his balloon towards the sea.

THE QUEEN'S TRADESMEN (who form a society) dined together yesterday at the Ship, Greenwich, to celebrate Prince Albert's birth. The Prince himself furnished venison for the feast, which went off excellently, under the management of the secretary, Mr. Melton.

THE MORTALITY ON BOARD EMIGRANT SHIPS which proceeded to North America during the last five years was as follows:—1854, 74 per cent; 1855, 63 per cent; 1856, 22 per cent; 1857, 36 per cent; and 1858, 19 per cent.

THE PREPARATIONS for the starting of the Great Eastern are proceeding with rapidity. Already a very large number of berths have been engaged for the first trip.

THE NEW INDIAN LOAN has been more successful than was generally anticipated. The minimum price for the 5 per cent Stock was fixed at 97, and the applications at and above the quotation exceeded £5,000,000 or £1,000,000 above the required amount. The highest offer was 100.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has adopted a very praiseworthy measure. All the horses and mules of the artillery, except those which are required for its effective force, will be lent out gratuitously to the agricultural population, on condition that they be well fed and taken care of.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ON looking over the party gains and losses since the general election I do not see much cause for Conservative crowing at present. The account of members unseated stand thus:—The Conservatives have ousted from their seats seven Liberals—to wit, from Aylesbury, 1; from Wakefield, 1; from Norwich, 2 (Lord Bury is not unseated yet, but he will be); from Gloucester, 2; from Dartmouth, 1; whilst the Liberals have turned out or frightened away three—viz., from Bodmin, 1; from Hull, 1; and from Berwick, 1—leaving a balance in favour of the Conservatives of four. Of the seats thus vacated the Conservatives have gained two—viz., Aylesbury and Dartmouth, and they have also got the seat for Taunton, vacated by Mr. Labouchere, making altogether three. These three, however, do not make six on a division, but five, as the return for Aylesbury being a double return neither of the members could vote. Against these Conservative gains may be placed the seats gained by the Liberals at Bodmin, which reduces the gain of the Conservatives to three on a division. The vacancies yet to be filled up are—Hull, 1; Berwick, 1; Wakefield, 1; Norwich, 2; Gloucester, 2; in all, seven. The gentlemen who have yet to undergo the ordeal of a Committee are as follows:—Conservatives: Brooks and Grey de Walton, members for Weymouth; Goff for Roscommon; Quin for Newry; Hennessy for King's County; Sir Frederick Smith for Chatham; Leake and Nichol for Dover; Bowyer for Dundalk; and Vandeleur for Clare. Liberals: Graham and Lawson for Carlisle; Davie and Potts for Barnstable; Sir John Acton for Carlisle; White for Clare; Pinney for Lyme Regis; Whalley for Peterborough; and Ennis for Athlone. The petition against Lord Bury for Norwich is yet to be tried; but as I have debited the Liberals with his seat already, it must not be included amongst the untried here. The number of members whose seats are in question then is nineteen, ten of whom are Conservatives and nine Liberals. What will be the ultimate state of the profits and loss, &c., of course no one can tell; but I think that we may venture to prophecy that the balance will be in favour of the Conservatives.

There has been a good deal of grumbling lately about the expense of our army and navy. But if any foreign king, prince, or potentate, is meditating an attack upon us under the delusion that we are too poor to defend ourselves I should advise him to cast a glance over the report on railways, just issued by the Board of Trade, and take note of the fact that during the last thirteen or fourteen years England has expended on English railways no less a sum than three hundred and twenty-five millions three hundred and seventy-five thousand five hundred and seven pounds sterling, or about twenty-five millions sterling per annum. What the capital amounts to which Englishmen have invested in Indian, colonial, and foreign railways I have no means of learning, but that must be a large sum. From another report just issued I reckon that the sum authorised to be raised during last Session amounts to about twelve millions. Now all this vast amount of money cannot have been paid out of capital, but must have come out of the savings of the nation. For, though I am no financier, I think I may venture to say that if it had been paid out of capital money would have risen in value. This, however, it has not done; but, on the contrary, money, except in times of panic, has been exceedingly cheap during the last dozen years. By-the-by, from the last-mentioned report I see that during the last Session there were no less than sixteen bills for intra-metropolitan railways applied for. The following is a list of these schemes, which, as you have a vast circulation in London, it may be as well to publish:—No. 1. Great Northern (Junction with the North London). 2. Hampstead Junction. 3. Kensington Station and North London Junction. 4. London-bridge and Charing-cross Railway. 5. Metropolitan Railway (abandoned). 6. Metropolitan Railway (Deviation). 7. North and South London Junction. 8. North-West and South London Junction. 9. Pimlico, Hammer-smith, and Kew Junction. 10. South-East and West London and Dulwich. 11. South Metropolitan Railway and Westminster Station. 12. Thames Embankment and Railway. 13. Victoria Station and Pimlico Railway. 14. Victoria Station and North-Western and Great Western Junction. 15. West London Railway. 16. West London and Pimlico Railway. The number of railway bills for the whole kingdom applied for was 89. How many were passed I cannot learn at present. I am now prospecting on the Welsh mountains, but when I return to town I will look.

"Experience is a dear and painful school," says the proverb, "but fools will learn in no other." And the proverb received the more exemplification not far from my present location on Sunday week last. A party of young men determined to climb Snowdon. They were warned—earnestly warned, I am told—not to go without a guide; but they resolutely refused to take one, and laughed at the supposed necessity for his services. Well, the consequence was that, a fog coming on, one of the party wandered away from the rest, and, tumbling over a precipice, was almost literally dashed to pieces. And I am told that it is a wonder that more did not share his fate; for when the mist arose, instead of sitting down, as they ought to have done, at all risk of wet, and cold, and hunger, they rushed madly on in the dark. By great good fortune, they all got to the top in safety but this one; but, as all were utterly ignorant of the way, it was the merest chance that they did not go wrong.

The directors of the Great Eastern seem tolerably confident in the success of their experiment when we find them refusing an offer of £20,000 made to them by Mr. Lever, the originator of the Galway line of packets and the senator for that celebrated city, merely for the farming of their first trip. The facts would seem to be that, so great is the popularity of the Galway route, berths are always for a long time pre-engaged, and considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed at what is apparently a necessary delay in obtaining accommodation. The stupendous size of the Great Eastern would afford the contractor a remedy for these complaints; and though it would seem difficult for him to obtain sufficient freightage to clear his payment, yet it would serve him as a most splendid advertisement, and enable him to clear off the long list of expectant passengers. One would also imagine that the directors must have some hitherto unexplained motive for inducing them to decline a princely offer which rids them of all trouble, risk, and anxiety. The office in Gresham-street is besieged with applicants for berths; but the besiegers must be numerous, indeed, ere their aggregate passage-money reaches a total of twenty thousands pounds. Moreover, we are not told whether this rush of applicants is for the little or the large trial-trip, for there are it seems to be two; one, to start on the 8th of September, from Portland, Dorsetshire, on a coasting-trip, finishing at Holyhead; the other, from Holyhead, on the 15th of September, to Portland, in the State of Maine, U.S. It is, at all events, pleasant to see the thoroughly British spirit of pluck exhibited by all concerned. Speculators offer enormous sums for the hire of the untried monster, the general public

push to take berths in her, and directors and shareholders are so thoroughly cock-a-shoop that they refuse to insure her, and leave the expert underwriters growling in despair.

In these horrible Red times the old Tost must be distressed to see the madmen of every banner when a woman, even in the matter of religious observances, is to be the subject of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, is an object of curiosity; and the madmen of every banner of the day are in some dread they have lost the way to the altar, called St. George's-in-the-East. There the great man, the Rev. Hugh Allen, is notoriously at variance with the Rev. Bryan King, and his curate, when he takes the opportunity of denouncing as ministers who do not preach the word of God, and of comparing with the Pope of Rome.

But considerably more demonstrative than the latter, at St. Barnabas, the St. George's-in-the-East congregation are so spurred on by the afternoon lecturer's exhortation that when, as the liner remarks, the doors of the church are "thrown open" for the "ordinary four o'clock service, an excited and riotous mob rushed in, shrieking and shouting, towards the altar," which was "dressed out in ultra-Romanistic style, with crosses, candles, and cloths." The appearance of a woman, who wore a black beard and moustache, and was followed by several uniformly-dressed characters, was the signal for a tremendous outburst of "Oh, oh!" and "hiss!" and when the "Rev. gentleman, who appeared quite unmoved," proceeded to intone the Litany, the people "vociferated remarks which are not to be found in the Litany, and joined the chorus for chanting the notes of a goat." And then, after this highly creditable scene, we are much astonished, and turn up our eyes in horror at reading newspaper paragraphs headed "Another Perversion to the Roman Catholic Church!" Hooting, hissing, oh-ing, parodying the Litany, and hawing like a goat, very nearly proceeding to acts of violence, too—for a gentleman with indubitable recollections of the celebrated ear-and-pump story vociferated "Pray don't tear down the altar!"—and it needed the personal interference of the great churchwardens themselves to prevent the crowd from acting on the suggestion! Surely this is a case which Archibald Campbell Tat, who has proved himself no feather-bed Bishop, will take immediate and stringent notice of!

The differences between the building operatives and the masters still continue, and seem as far from adjustment as ever. At a private meeting of the masters, held on Tuesday, I understand several were for doing away with the "declaration," but the majority held firm that an assent to the terms therein embodied must form a part of the contract. The men had a meeting the same day, the noisiest and least satisfactory that they have held. It would appear that the Messrs. Trollope are young men who, personally, have not been very long in the building business, though their name and connection are well known. They held the contract for those large houses now being erected in Wilton-place, but in consequence of a press of business the works had not been very quickly proceeded with, and the architect began to talk of enforcing penalties. Messrs. Trollope roused at once, and placed a vast number of men on the works, urging them with all speed; the men heard of the position in which their employers were placed, took advantage of it, and struck. This is the explanation given by one of the largest contractors in London, and if true, which I cannot for a moment doubt, it looks bad, as showing a vicious intention on the part of the men to enforce their demands by suddenly crippling their employers.

The *Times* of a few days since, on the first page of its entertaining supplement, which I would not miss for all the leading articles that ever were written, contained an advertisement which is faithfully copied as follows:—

TO PIANOFORTE MAKERS.—A lady keeping a first-class school, requiring a good piano, is desirous of receiving a daughter of the above in exchange for the same. Address, &c.

Now the first and indeed the only distinctly intelligible piece of information to be derived from "the above," is that a first-class ladies' school is wanting in so very important an accessory as a good piano. So far there is a positive statement which, however amazing, must be admitted, inasmuch as it emanates from a lady. But, I would ask, how are we to understand the rest of the advertisement? How can "a daughter of the above" be taken "in exchange for the same?" How can there be an exchange of anything for "the same?" The phrase implies a direct contradiction of terms; and, whether the daughter who is to be taken in exchange for herself be the daughter of a pianoforte maker, or of a lady, or of a first-class school, or of a good piano—to all or either of which the mysterious word "above" may equally well apply—the announcement is one of the most incomprehensible that I can remember to have heard or read, even from a scholastic source.

The finest ball yet produced by the *Saturday Review*—already famous for its Hibernicisms—is to be found on the front page of last week's number, where an invader is mentioned as having been "first annihilated," and then "driven back," and "finally crushed on his own soil!"

Mr. Charles Dickens has decided against the offer which was made to him to give readings in the United States.

The *Widow's Ghost*, having passed into the hands of a new proprietor, will shortly undergo a change in its appearance. In about a week's time it will be brought out in the same shape, and at the same price, as *All the Year Round*. Mr. Robert Brough will be the editor, and various good hands are mentioned as likely to be on the staff.

Mr. George Augustus Sala has, I perceive, resumed in the columns of the *Widow's Ghost* the long-interrupted narrative of the adventures of the stout gentleman, the slim gentleman, and the man with the iron chest, entitled "Make your Game." His apology to his readers is in the following ingenious style:—

When Harry the Eighth visited Boulogne the batteries of that town—or rather the officers in command of them—were so kind as to salute him with the number of guns customarily used in saluting Royal personages. The Mayor of Boulogne, who happened to be the responsible party in the matter of salutes, was summoned before the irate monarch, and, under peril of his neck, enjoined to explain the cause of the absence of the required salvo of artillery. "May it please your Grace," answered the municipal functionary, in noisy alacrity, "I have four-and-twenty good reasons for not firing the salute." "Name them!" thundered the husband of six wives. "In the first place," continued the Mayor, "I had no gunpowder." Now, Harry the Eighth, albeit a tremendous tyrant and polygamist, possessed a considerable amount of natural sagacity, and he forthwith consented to forego the remaining twenty-three reasons of the worthy Mayor, and didn't hang him; nay, I believe, knighted him eventually.

The editor of this long-interrupted series of papers has at least four-and-twenty good reasons for not having finished "Make your Game;" yet he hopes to experience the leniency and forbearance of his readers when he assures them that the first and most imperative reason for the non-performance of an implied contract with the public, and the continuation of a most unbecomingly long task, was ill health. He has been quite well, though, some months past; and the readers of the *Widow's Ghost* may wish to become acquainted with the balance of his reasons. But he hesitates to enumerate them all. There was love, there was law, and there was physics. There might have been quarrelling; there might have been (perhaps) a matrimony; and he is certain there was a good deal of misunderstanding. However, here at least is the continuation of "Make your Game." The public must not be too angry with an old servant, and one who has worked not unfaithfully—nor always unfruitfully, he hopes—since he was a little lad to amuse them. It is good to take the will for the deed sometimes; and it is earnestly hoped that it will be so taken in this instance.

A PRIZE ESSAY ON A SUBJECT.—The *Illustrated Times* begs to inform the clergy, who are so kind as to contribute to the *Illustrated Times* on the best means of promoting the understanding between England and France that it is itself entitled to the prize for giving the question in one sentence, and is alone with dozens of essays: "Let us neither men nor your que be so much as to understand each other much better if they don't talk so loud."

GRAND REVIEW AT ALDERSHOTT.

Our Queen arrived at Aldershot on Monday to review her troops encamped there. The programme of the day's evolutions, though extremely short, was suggestive. It appeared that the Aldershot division had received orders to be on the march; and an enemy advanced on Lord Pembroke's camp from the east. It was the supposition of this most surprising emergency which led to taking up a formidable line on the Hill, where the enemy's advanced guard were to be met. While powerful light batteries threw up their shells for further defence. The attack of the day was a mere preliminary skirmish, to enable the men to entrench; it was on Tuesday that the decisive battle was fought.

As soon as Her Majesty came upon the field the evolutions, which were of the very briefest kind, commenced. The brigades were moved down to the slope of the hill overlooking the Aldershot-road, and commenced their evolutions. They could be got into line, commenced a series of evolutions supported from all the commanding positions on the hill. The smoke and noise were terrible, and then almost as instantly slackened down, when the brigades retired in columns, the batteries were advanced, powerful covering bodies of riflemen were thrown out, and under the protection of these strong working parties advanced to entrench the weakest points of the position. For the breastwork on the left it was required 180 men, for the centre 900, and for the right 620. As each of these working parties was relieved three times, it is figured the labour of 2600 men to complete the works on the left, 3600 on the centre, and 2600 on the right.

The men set to work with a hearty good will and a tolerably fair trench was soon cut, and a breastwork began to rise. This part of the programme, however, seemed as a rule to be devoid of general interest, and her Majesty, after watching the progress of the work for a short time, drove off the ground. The men remained with their regular reliefs to throw up the entrenchment.

The main body of the division at Aldershot retired to its cantonments, leaving the reserve brigade under Lord Frederick Powlett, with a force of artillery, under canvas on the slope of the hills, to protect the entrenchment and guard against any sudden movement on the part of the supposed enemy. Soon after daybreak next morning the work was again resumed, and by six o'clock the whole line of entrenchment swarmed with eager hands. By ten o'clock great progress had been made in spite of all difficulties, and the line of defence was almost complete. At that hour the camp division had marched out, and were reassembled in their positions the day respectively occupied on the previous evening. An immense number of visitors had also collected from the metropolis and the adjacent towns and villages round the camp. All looked forward to a long-protracted and hard-fought battle, and all, of course, were proportionally disappointed when the review was abruptly brought to a close after a few minutes' general firing and a rapid advance of the whole force. Among other visitors on the ground was the Count de Paris, who was attended by two of our Light Divisions, one of whom, though a sergeant and many years in the service, is a Frenchman.

Her Majesty, accompanied and attended as on the previous day, quitted the Pavilion at eleven o'clock, and, as soon as the Royal cortege had taken up its position at the centre, the evolutions, such as they were, commenced.

The defence of the lines began in the usual manner, with a sharp spitting fire from the riflemen in advance, supported by a heavy cannonade. The rapid crackling fusillade from the invincible sharpshooters, who were entirely hidden by trees, showed the admirable defensive capabilities of the post; but it was not until the heavy guns came into play that the really formidable nature of the position was fully manifested. From fifty different points on the steepest heights, and heights apparently inaccessible to cannon, where muzzles only just peered over the brows of hills, came broad red streaks of flame and reverberations which almost shook the earth. Not a spot had been overlooked—not a single avenue from which the enemy could approach was left unguarded, or free from a murderous cross fire of six or eight pieces of ordnance. As the cannonade grew more general and the enemy was supposed to have developed all his forces, the troops lined the breastwork in dense masses, and now from all points along the line arose one of the most tremendous and sustained rolls of musketry and cannon that had ever woke the echoes of Aldershot. The whole position seemed wrapped in a dense cloud, amid which only the great spurts of flame from the artillery were visible. This terrific demonstration continued for nearly half an hour, by which time the enemy, being merely mortals after all, were supposed to have had enough of this *feu de bois*. The troops closed up, and in sections of four poured through the openings in the breastwork in dense bright streams, while the batteries of artillery scrambled down the heights in pursuit in the best way they could. The cavalry and Horse Artillery made a rapid movement on the right, and the advance along the whole line became general. The whole mass poured down the steep slopes in front of the position (excepting the guns in the batteries, which remained to cover the movement), the riflemen were thrown out, and the woods and orchards began to echo like distant thunder under the continual fire. For some short time the pursuit of the flying foe was thus continued, after which a general halt was sounded, and some of the regiments piled arms. All carried their provisions and water for the day, and it was at first generally imagined that the halt was called to allow the men to dine before renewing the pursuit. However, after an interval of about an hour, which was employed by her Majesty and the Prince Consort in riding along the line and inspecting the works, the "assembly" was sounded, and, not a little to the surprise and annoyance of the public who had come too late, each brigade made the best of its way back to camp. Contrary to the general custom on these occasions, there was no marching past, and so the review terminated. Her Majesty at once returned to the Pavilion, and, after partaking of lunch, quitted camp, attended by the usual escort. The Royal train was in attendance at the Farnborough station, and started with her Majesty for Southampton at four o'clock.

This Royal visit, it is understood, is the last which Her Majesty will make to the camp this season; but at least two more grand field days will take place in the presence, and most probably under the command, of the Duke of Cambridge ere the final break-up of the summer camp. The latter event is not likely to take place before the beginning of October.

A PRIZE VOYAGE.—Some few months ago instructions were received in England, by Mr. John Watson, of London, who is contractor of the undertaking, to dispatch to Bahia a small screw-boat to ply in connection with the Bahia Railway. Accordingly, a little craft was built of steel plates, and, as it was utterly impossible to steam such a distance, even had she been freighted with coal, it was resolved to send the little *Lucy* to Bahia under sail alone. Although only twenty tons register, she was loaded with eighteen tons of cargo (too great buoyancy would have been fatal in a squall), and started from the Ties on her long and perilous voyage. On reaching Edmonth the captain and crew, becoming fatigued, decided to proceed further. A message was then sent down to Liverpool to request a captain for the little vessel; and Captain Richard Breckon offered to navigate her. After much difficulty a crew was got together, but so large was the appearance of the tiny bark that once the crew absolutely jumped overboard no less than six times to ensure the captain on each occasion capturing the would-be runaway. On the 20th of April Captain Breckon hoisted sail, his friends at Edmonth bidding him a sorrowful adieu. In the Bay of Biscay the little *Lucy* encountered two severe gales, but she weathered both nobly, thanks to the seaman's ship of Captain Breckon. After clearing the Bay of Biscay the *Phoebe Dunbar*, a large ship belonging to London, with passengers on board, despatched the little *Lucy*, and, astonished to see so small a craft in such a latitude, the *Phoebe* signalled to Captain Breckon his wish to communicate. Accordingly, the latter ran his tiny vessel under the quarter of the *Phoebe Dunbar*, when a hundred operations and telescopes were levelled at the miniature ship beneath. After parting from the *Phoebe Dunbar* the little *Lucy* encountered tolerable weather; and at length, after a passage of forty-nine days, Captain Breckon entered Bahia, where the appearance of his vessel created a great sensation. The length of the voyage considered, the smallness of the vessel, the short time in which the run was accomplished, and the dangers and risk to be encountered, this voyage is almost without a parallel.

THE REPORT ON THE ARMY CLOTHING DEPOTS.

The Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the mode of management in practice at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower, has just been published.

The following are the main conclusions of the report:—

First, that the system of management in practice at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower, was in many respects defective, and in some cases, in the most serious manner.

Secondly, that the system of management in practice at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower, was in many respects defective, and in some cases, in the most serious manner. The report states that the system of management in practice at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower, was in many respects defective, and in some cases, in the most serious manner. The report states that the system of management in practice at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower, was in many respects defective, and in some cases, in the most serious manner.

In our opinion the main defects in the Weedon establishment are chargeable to the War Department.

It was a mistake to fix the clothing depot so far from London, beyond the opportunity of immediate and frequent personal surveillance by the War Department.

It was a mistake to move the depot to the establishment without giving instructions as to its management. It was a mistake to supply the depot with a small and inexperienced staff. The inspection staff in particular ought to have been organized from the commencement upon the plan adopted at the Tower, and better salaries should have been given to the various inspectors. It was a continuing mistake not to increase the staff in proportion to the increase of the work, and in accordance with Mr. Elliott's frequently repeated request.

It was a mistake, not extending the distance of Weedon from London, that more frequent visits were not paid there by the directors of clothing, and a more rigid supervision exercised over the books and the stores.

It was a mistake not to have had a more considerable store in hand before commencing the issues, so as to have been prepared for the emergencies which occurred.

It was a mistake, a most serious mistake, to have separate contracts for the cloth required, and for the making of it into garments—a course involving double contracts, double correspondence, double inspection, double carriage, double loading of accounts. This defect has been cured, the contracts being now in the first instance entered into for the clothing completely made up.

There is no doubt that the clothing furnished to the army has very greatly improved in quality. On the other hand, the Commissioners do not think that hitherto any substantial saving of the public money has resulted from the new system. They scout, however, as "an extravagant misstatement" the assertion that the change has involved Government in a heavy loss. The report on Weedon winds up with sundry suggestions for the improvement of the system of transacting the business there:—

As the business is at present conducted, we believe it excludes—as far as any system that could be devised can exclude—the opportunity of improperly influencing the officers employed. We feel bound to declare our conviction that the issue of general charges of corruption and venality which have, as we are aware, been freely circulated against the present inspectors and visitors at Woolwich and the Tower, are without substantial foundation.

We have already intimated our opinion that the result of the mode of conducting the business at Woolwich is satisfactory. We think the public interests have been well served by the vigour, intelligence, and accuracy of the officers at that station. And we are inclined to believe that the result of the arrears and discrepancies in the Tower's accounts prior to 1856, however creditable, has been less detrimental to the public service than might have been feared. Although complete certainty on the point is unattainable, we think there has been no dishonesty, no defalcation in the stores, no substantial loss to the public, and that the errors in question are errors of account only, which we have every reason to believe will not occur again if the more frequent and rigid supervision we have recommended be adopted, and the storekeeper be at all times provided with a sufficient staff of competent clerks.

Finally, we have the satisfaction of certifying to your Majesty our opinion that the present state of the books and stock of stores at both these depots appears to us unexceptionable.

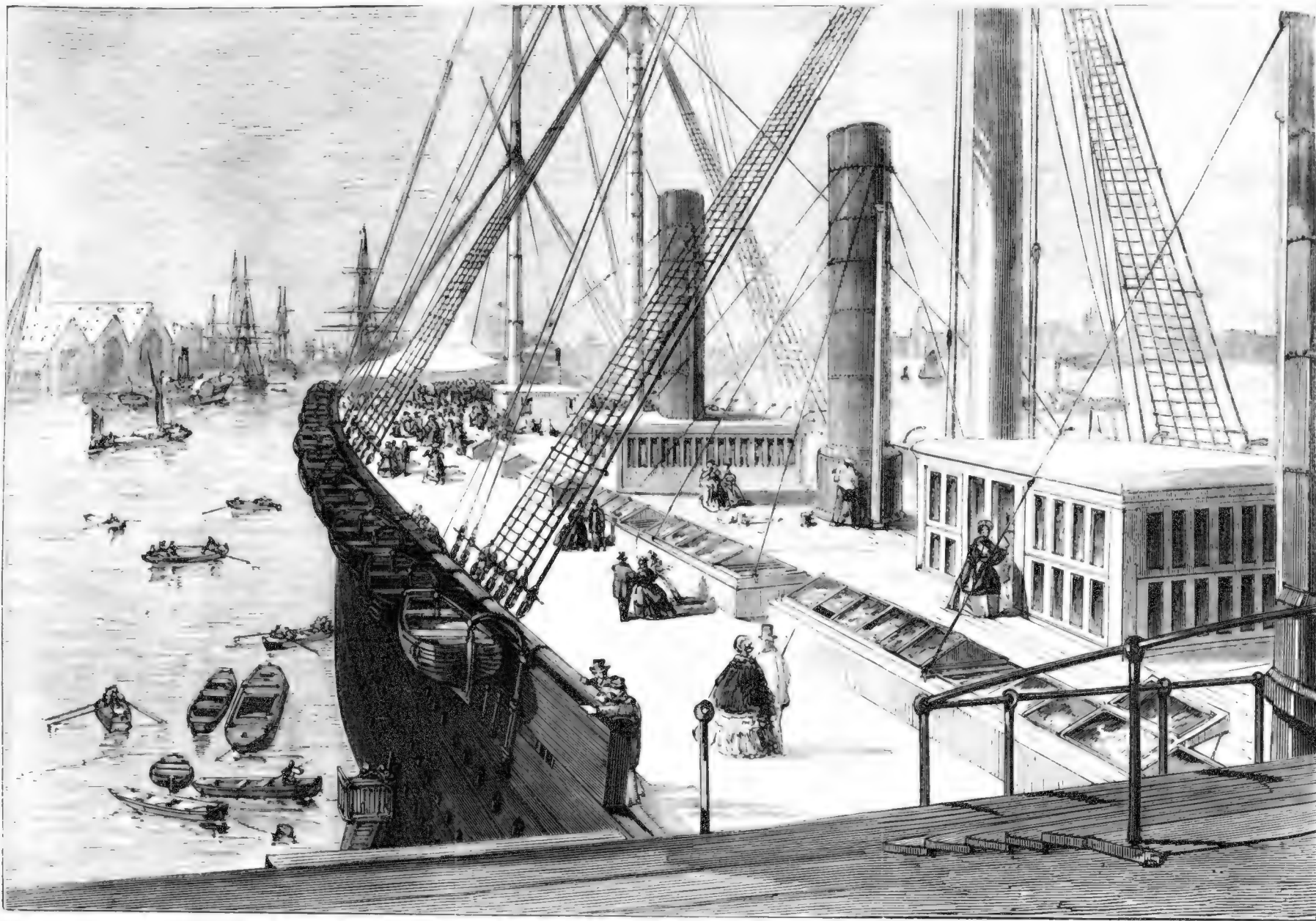
WHAT A FRENCH SOLDIER HAS TO CARRY.—As the great knapsack question is once more on the tapis on the side of the Channel it may be useful to Mr. Sidney Herbert to know what a French soldier has to carry, packed inside and strapped outside. On the outside—1. The tent and tent-pole. 2. A blanket. 3. A waterproof cap, with hood. 4. A water-bucket, used also as a camp-kettle. 5. A round loaf of bread. 6. A tin can. 7. A quart measure. Inside—1. A pair of gaiters. 2. Two shirts. 3. A pair of shoes. 4. An order-book. 5. A small canvas bag, containing a set of five stout needles, a skein of scarlet thread, a skein of yellow thread, a skein of black thread, a thimble, shoe, clothes, and musket brushes; a small box containing the tools necessary to take a musket to pieces and put it together again, a grease box, a wax ditto. 6. Two pocket handkerchiefs. 7. Fifty rounds of ball cartridge. And, 8. Anything else he can find room for.—*Paris Letter.*

DISCHARGE OF EAST INDIA TROOPS IN ENGLAND.—The War Department having decided to opt for the proclamation of the Governor-General of India in respect to the East India troops now in England, and giving them an opportunity of either transferring their service to her Majesty or claiming their discharge—the men were paraded, and the alternative offered to them. The result was, that out of 150 men (Engineers) only 26 expressed their intention of taking their discharge, and these, it is said, would have transferred their services to her Majesty had a slight bounty been given them.

SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG'S IMPROVEMENTS.—Sir William Armstrong has succeeded in accomplishing the method of fixing any number of the guns employed in the service which present a surface at the bore fit to secure and maintain the grooves, and which possess a body of sufficient tensile strength to resist the explosive power required to expel the heavy shot now in use. Some successful experiments have been carried out at Shoeburyness with some of the guns which have undergone this metamorphosis, hitherto considered impracticable. The first gun submitted to trial was an 80-pounder on Sir William's original plan; the second an ordinary 32-pounder service gun, rifled on a plan adapted for elongated cast-iron shot or shell. They were fired over a range of 3400 yards, and the result exceeded the general anticipation. The target was six feet square, into which every shot—namely, six rounds from each gun—penetrated with certain aim.

IN TUNIS it is reported that orders have been received from the French Admiralty to cease disarming the fleet, and that the forts commanding the entrance to the harbour are being armed with the guns which have hitherto been kept in store.

MONSIEUR BLONDIN'S TIGHT-ROPE PERFORMANCE.—M. Blondin has repeated his feat of crossing Niagara on a tight rope, with embellishments. Says the *Buffalo Express*:—"When about halfway to the centre he stopped and sat down, then stretched himself at full length upon the rope, then performed a number of daring antics, and finally stood upright upon his head, remaining in that reversed position for a length of time which seemed a minute at least, swing and kicking his feet in the most reckless and ludicrous manner that can be conceived. Resuming his journey, he proceeded but a little way when he again halted and repeated his performance, with the addition of a backward somersault and one or two sudden swings around the rope, which caused a general flutter among the hearts of the spectators, and brought little screams from many of the ladies. Starting forward again, he proceeded to the open space in the centre, between the extreme guy ropes that branch off to either bank, where the cable spans the gulf, without stay or accompaniment. Here he paused again, and, laying his pole upon one of the guy ropes, he swung himself under the cable and ran across this central space of single cord in the style of a monkey, hanging beneath, and swinging himself along by his hands and feet with great rapidity. Going back again in the same gymnastic manner, when he had returned to the point where his pole rested, he began a series of performances which outdid in thrilling and startling effect upon the nerves of the spectators all that he had done before. Clutching the rope with his hands, he swung his body clear from it, and hung for a period of more than ten seconds, suspended by the arms, and by one arm, over the fearful depth of the chasm. Then he repeatedly tied such a suspended somersault as is peculiar to boys, throwing his feet over his head and between his arms, and lancing with the shoulder-joints in a most unnatural position. Then he straightened his body into a horizontal position, still supported by the arms, thrown backward as described in exertion requiring immense strength, and calculated to exhaust the nervous system tremendously. After this he suspended himself by the legs, and by one single leg, lancing head downwards—whirled around the rope, turned some somersaults, stood upon his head again, and, in fact, performed nearly all the most reckless feats attempted by tight-rope performers under ordinary circumstances. Twice again before reaching the bank he had a narrow escape from some of the elements, coming determined to fatigue himself to the last point of endurance, and thoroughly satisfy the spectators with his exhibition of daring and skill. And they were satisfied beyond question. The performance was wonderful, and exciting enough for the most greedy seeker after sensations."



THE MAIN DECK OF THE "GREAT EASTERN."

DESTRUCTION OF WALTON BRIDGE.

On the morning of the 11th inst. the two centre arches of the bridge leading from Walton to Haliford (Middlesex) fell into the river with so violent a crash that it was believed in the neighbourhood that some fearful explosion had taken place. The bridge was built by Mr. Samuel Dicker, in 1750, and is consequently one hundred and nine years old. Its appearance in its present state would give one the idea that it had been blown up before the advance of a hostile army, only that such things are unknown in England. The bridge consists of four stone piers—or rather it did—between which were three truss arches of beams and joists of wood, strongly bound together with mortises, iron

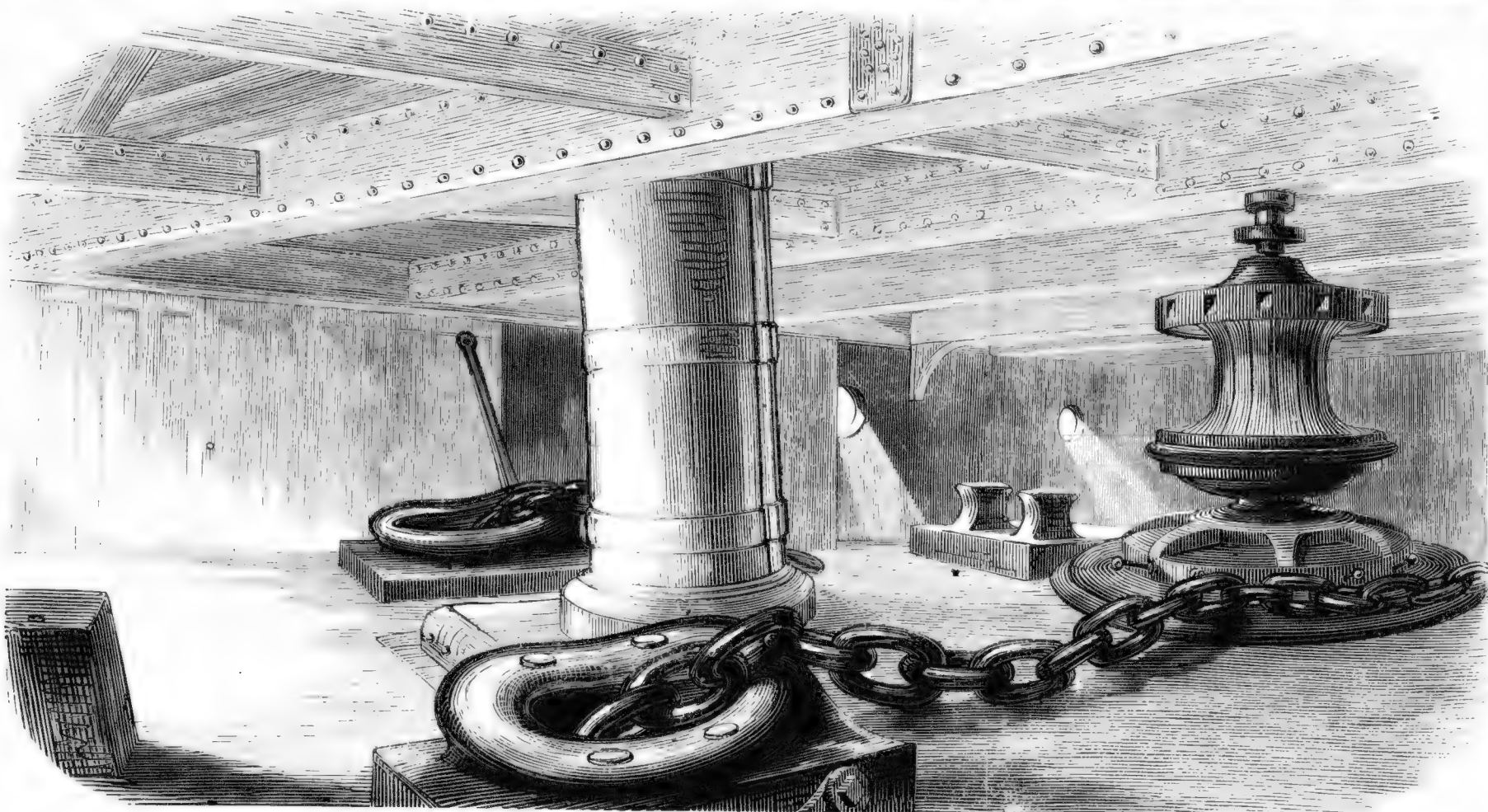
pins, and cramps, besides which there were five arches of brickwork on each side to render the ascent and descent the more easy. The centre arch was exceedingly large. An eyewitness of the catastrophe says:—"I had crossed the river just below the bridge in a punt with a friend, to take a sketch of it from the Walton side, when the falling of a few stones from the broken arch warned us to quicken our speed, and before we had well reached the shore the pier suddenly gave way, and the two large arches on either side, with the roadway for some 150 or 200 yards, fell into the river below with a tremendous crash. The water splashed up like a fountain, and the sudden displacement caused the river to rise in a wave four or five feet high, which, rolling down the

stream with irresistible force, carried boats, punts, logs of timber, and everything within reach before it. Fortunately nobody was in a boat near the spot at the time, or he certainly must have been capsized, and perhaps drowned."

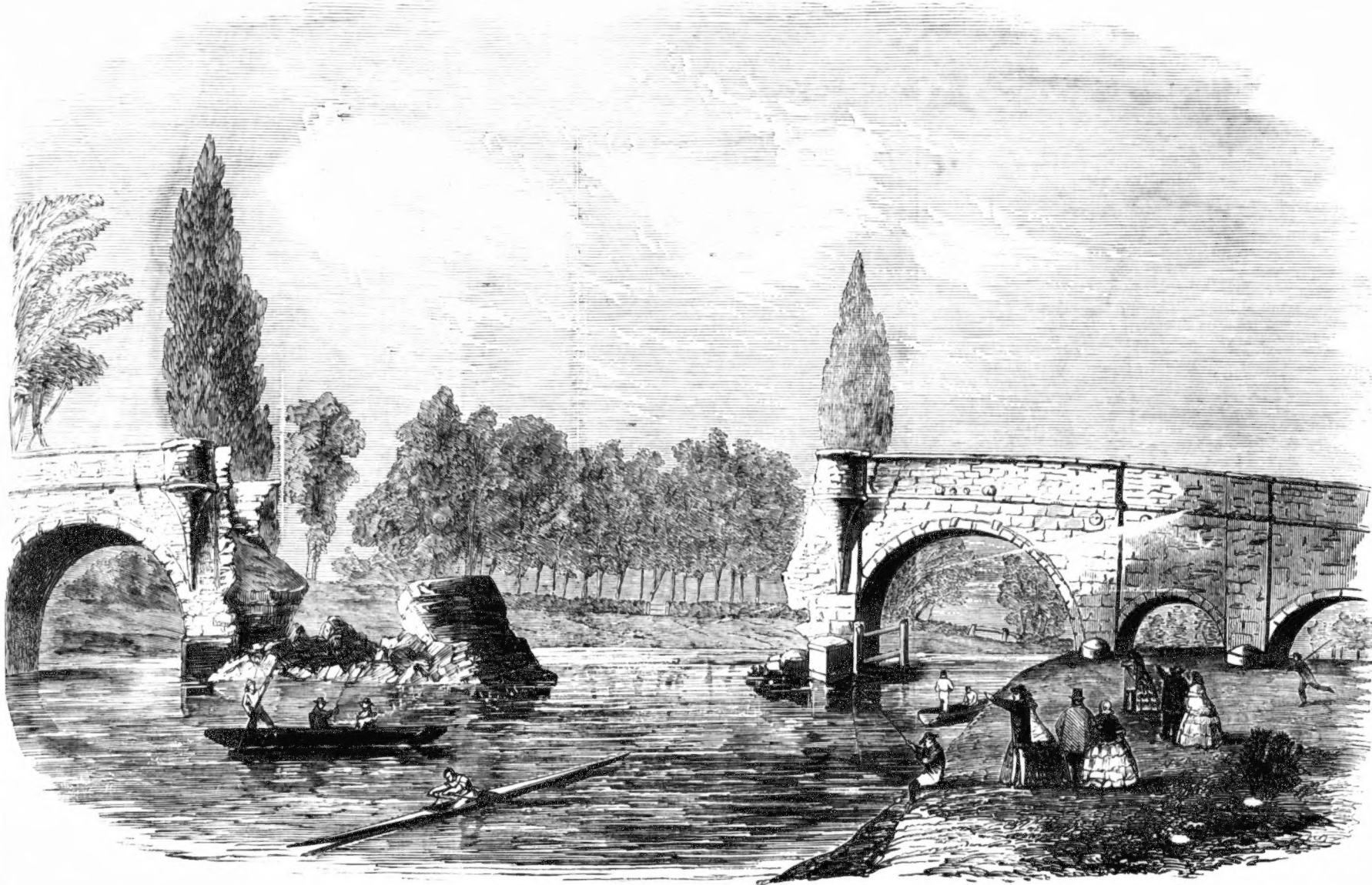
Our illustration is from a sketch taken shortly after the falling in of the arches.

CHARLES V. AT THE MONASTERY OF ST. JUSTE.

ROBERT FLEURY, whose name is, no doubt, familiar to many of our readers, deservedly holds rank as one of the finest historical painters the French school possesses, and we have great pleasure in reproducing



CAPSTAN AND HAWSEHOLES ON THE SECOND DECK OF THE "GREAT EASTERN."



THE BRIDGE AT WALTON-ON-THAMES, AS IT APPEARED ON AUGUST 11.

one of his best pictures. The subject is taken from the life of Charles V. The once vigorous monarch has retired to his convent of St. Juste, where he is receiving the Count of Melito, who has come on the part of Philip II, with a request that the old King will for a season leave his solitude, and afford his successor the benefit

of his counsels, much needed in the critical combinations of 1557. Charles V., bowed down by suffering, still preserves the dignified and haughty bearing of a Prince, but a few days since the ruler of the most powerful kingdom in Europe. He is in a measure on the confines of the two worlds. The noble Castilians who incline

themselves respectfully before him represent the Court and its splendours, from which he has turned in disgust; the monks who stand near him, silent and motionless, personify that death in life in which the proud Emperor has taken refuge. The scene is well arranged, the groups of figures well disposed. The character of the heads are varied,



"CHARLES V. OF SPAIN IN THE MONASTERY OF ST. JUSTE."—(FROM A PICTURE BY ROBERT FLAUX.)

The haughty expression of the Spanish noblemen's faces is a good contrast to the heavy, unintelligent features of most of the monks.

The following extract from Stirling's "Cloister Life of Charles V." describes the reception of the King by the Brotherhood of St. Juste:—"At the gates the Prior was waiting to receive his Imperial guest, who, on alighting, was placed in a chair, and carried to the door of the church. At the threshold he was met by the whole brotherhood in procession, chanting the 'Te Deum' to the music of the organ. The altar and the aisle were brilliantly lighted up with tapers, and decked with their rich frontals, hangings, and plate. Borne through the pomp to the steps of the high altar, Charles knelt down and returned thanks to God for the happy termination of his journey, and joined in the vesper service of the feast of St. Blas. This ended, the Prior stepped forward with a congratulatory speech, in which, to the scandal of the courtiers, he addressed the Emperor as 'Your paternity,' until some friar, with more presence of mind and etiquette, whispered that the proper style was 'Majesty.' The orator next presented his friars to their new brother, each kissing his hand and receiving his paternal embrace. Attended by the Oropesa, and conducted by the Prior, the Emperor then made an inspection of the convent, and finally retired to sup in his new home, and enjoy the repose which had so long been the dream of his life." Again, we are told by the same author of the way in which he conformed to the religious discipline of the convent:—"At complines he went up into the choir with the fathers, and prayed in a devout and audible voice in his tribune. During the season of Lent, which came round twice during his residence at St. Juste, he regularly appeared on Fridays in his place in the choir; and, at the end of the appointed prayers, extinguishing the taper which he, like the rest, held in his hand. He flogged himself with such sincerity of purpose that the scourge was stained with blood, and the pious were singularly edified. Some of these scourges were found after his death in his chamber stained with blood, and became precious heirlooms in the house of Austria, and honoured relics at the Escorial."

BRADFORD FESTIVAL. (From our own Reporter.)

BRADFORD, Wednesday Evening.

It seems a strange thing that people should come all the way from London to Bradford to listen to three or four oratorios, which they can hear just as well performed at Exeter Hall, and a series of miscellaneous concerts exactly similar in character to those which are given in the course of the season at the Crystal Palace. But it is a fact that there are numbers of visitors here from the metropolis; and Bradford is crowded with inns and hotels from Wakefield, Leeds, Manchester, and all the large and small manufacturing towns of Yorkshire and Lancashire. Of course there are the usual complaints concerning want of accommodation, and people visit hotel after hotel and call for beds where there are no beds.

The number of applications for tickets for the various performances has been greater even than was expected, although the most favourable anticipations had been formed in consequence of the announcement that all the profits of the festival would be devoted to the local hospital and infirmary. The entertainments commenced yesterday with an evening performance of the "Creation." To-day the "Dettingen Te Deum" and selections from "Judas Maccabeus" have been given; and this evening, and every evening until the termination of the festival, there will be a miscellaneous concert, consisting almost entirely of Italian music. The singers engaged for the oratorios are Mesdames Clara Novello, Lemmens Sherrington, and Sunderland, and Messrs. Sims Reeves, Santley, and Belletti. For the miscellaneous concerts the services of Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Nantier-Didice, Signor Giuglini, and Signor Badiali have been retained. The only instrumental soloist engaged is Miss Arabella Goddard, who will perform Beethoven's concerto in E flat, and the choral fantasia by the same composer.

The performance of the "Creation" on Tuesday evening was in all respects admirable. The Bradford choir is one of the finest in England. Madame Novello, Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Belletti, and Mr. Santley were in excellent voice; the orchestra was Mr. Costa's (which is enough to say of it), and all the executants seemed animated by a determination to do their best. We need not speak in detail of the execution, in which what chiefly struck us was the excellence of the choral singing. For this great praise is due to Mr. Jackson, the chorus-master. This gentleman is not only an accomplished musical director, but also a composer of great (local) celebrity, and the author of a cantata entitled "The Year," which is to be performed on the third day of the festival.

St. George's Music Hall, in which the performances take place, is one of the finest buildings of the kind in England, and it is the only architectural ornament the town possesses, Bradford generally being as dirty, smoky a mass of uninteresting brickwork as can well be conceived. The hall is also excellent for sound, and all the interior arrangements are admirable. At present the building is surrounded by barriers which have the effect of keeping at a convenient distance from the entrances "that great source of all legitimate power, the people." The excluded ones muster in great force at each performance, and seem to take considerable pleasure in viewing the ingress and egress of the visitors.

Yesterday evening, which was to some extent a "people's night," a good many of the most respectable workmen of Bradford and the vicinity were present in the hall, and listened most attentively to Haydn's music. Hitherto it has always been the custom of festivals to give oratorios in the morning, and to reserve the evenings for concert performances, by which arrangement working people were prevented from hearing any of the sacred music. The alteration introduced by the Bradford committee is a commendable one, and appears to have given satisfaction to every one.

At the oratorio of this morning, the Bradford chorus (strengthened by vocalists from other parts of Yorkshire) again distinguished itself by the beauty and vigour of its singing. In "Judas" the performance of Mr. Sims Reeves was especially remarkable. The war-songs of the "Maccabee" are wonderfully suited to his impressive, energetic style; he sings them as he sings nothing else, and as no one else could sing them.

To-night we shall hear Mdlle. Titiens and the Italian singers in the "Miscellaneous Concert." Some of the local critics, with a severity of taste which does them honour, complain that the "Miscellaneous" programmes includes too many pieces by Verdi, and too few by Mendelssohn, Mozart, and the rest of the Germans. The programmes, however, are very judiciously composed. After an oratorio in the morning it would be too much of a good thing to have to listen to German music again at night. We wish, for our part, that the "Stabat Mater" of Rossini could be substituted for one of the oratorios, but to give a Teutonic character to the concerts would be intolerable. Life is already sad enough at Bradford. The smoke, the soot, and the dusthole odour that pervade all the town are most depressing; and the atmosphere of the place, taken with two doses a day of serious German music, would certainly produce among the visitors a tendency to suicide.

We look forward with pleasure to the concert of this evening, in which Mdlle. Titiens and Mme. Nantier-Didice, Signor Giuglini, and others will take part. The most interesting feature in the entertainment will be the performance of Mdlle. Titiens, who, for the first time in England, will sing the light soprano music. Thus she undertakes an air from the "Traviata," and she will join Signor Belletti in the duet from "Don Pasquale."

In my next and last letter I shall have to speak of Mr. Jackson's new cantata, and of the miscellaneous concerts generally. The festival will terminate on Friday night; and before Saturday morning I hope to leave Bradford, and never to return to it.

THE EXECUTORS OF THE LATE MR. ABRAHAM LAUDIN, formerly of Oxford-street, have recently paid a bequest of a £1000 free of duty to the Treasurer of the St. Marylebone Almshouses at St. John's-wood for decayed parishioners who have seen better days.

SACRIFICED TO NEGLECT.

THE ALMA left Calcutta for the Mauritius on the 5th of June last. She was towed down the Hooghly by a steamer, which parted from her about 2.30 a.m. In two hours afterwards, while working alone down channel, she struck upon a bank. She settled, and orders were given to get out the boats. The first boat was got out within five minutes, and five men were placed in her, with directions to save the people on the poop. By this time communication had been cut off between the poop and the forepart of the ship. So strong a tide was setting against the boat that they were obliged to cast her off, lest she should be dashed to pieces against the ship's side. The rope was cut, and the boat drifted away, but the crew could not succeed in getting her back, because the tholes had been forgotten. They never got nearer the ship than half a mile before all left on board had perished. No blame seems to have attached to the men; they were observed to be making frantic efforts with their oars; but all was in vain—the tholes were not forthcoming. We now come to the history of the jollyboat. She also was got afloat, but neither were there tholes in her! One of her men, however, had five or six tholes in his pocket, and these, with some made out of a camp-stool which floated by, served them to use their oars. Meanwhile the longboat had been got afloat; but she had neither tholes nor oars. Had she been properly appointed all on board might have been saved. The most desperate attempts seem to have been made to tow this longboat to the afterpart of the wreck, but the heavy sea defeated them, and at last the crew of the jollyboat were compelled to cast her off. Then the deaths followed rapidly. More than twenty persons perished simply from the neglect of the most ordinary precautions.

SALE AT VAUXHALL GARDENS.—The theatre, orchestra, dancing platform, fireworks gallery, fountains, statues, vases, &c., of Vauxhall Gardens were sold by auction on Monday. The auctioneer, at starting, expressed his belief that many of the articles which he should offer would fetch more than their intrinsic worth, in consequence of the interesting associations connected with them. This prediction was not verified. For a deal table with turned legs (one of the original tables made for the gardens in 1754) which the auctioneer said was more than 100 years old, and would last 100 more, a Goth of a dealer offered half-a-crown; but at length it rose to 9s., and was knocked down at that figure. The large painting of Treport, in France, highly lauded, as being considerably better than when it was first painted, was knocked down at the insignificant sum of £2 7s.; while another painting quite as large realised only 30s. The large historical painting in the coffee-room, representing the King of Sardinia, with the Order of the Garter, being introduced by Prince Albert to the Queen, brought only 35s., notwithstanding the assurance of the auctioneer that the likeness was very striking; while an equestrian picture of the Emperor and Empress of France at a hunting party, in the costume of Louis XIV., was disposed of for the ridiculous sum of 25s. The great feature of the day's sale was "the entire erection of the elegant circular orchestra, with minarets, loaded cupola, roof, and gallery; American, stout, and oyster bars, with the fittings, shelves, and two beer-machines and pipes, metal top counter, stairs, frontispiece, and pipes; machinery of organ, bellows, &c.; two figures on pedestals supporting shell sounding-board; four looking-glass panels, &c." For this majestic pile a gentleman of the Jewish persuasion offered £25, but several persons seemed to be anxious about the lot, and the price ran up to £99. The monster platform for dancing brought in £55. There were in all 274 lots, and many of them were knocked down at inconceivably low prices.

BRAWLING IN CHURCH.—For many weeks past the scandalous Sabbath disturbances in the Church of St. George's-in-the-East have furnished a staple for paragraphs in the newspapers of Monday morning. At the end of Mr. Allen's, and throughout Mr. King's, service, there now generally occurs, Sunday after Sunday, a disgraceful disturbance, which we can only characterise by one vulgar but comprehensive word—that of a "row." Last week Mr. Yardley, the magistrate at the Thames-Police Court, was occupied for seven hours in hearing the case of a squabble and fight in the church on the previous Sunday. This occasion was enforced by the Curate going into a fit. Last Sunday the proceedings were of a similar character.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.—From a review of the criminal statistics of the last fifteen years, it appears that 1848 was the most productive of criminals in England and Wales, the total having risen in that eventful twelvemonth to 30,349. In 1855 the total was 25,972, and the operation of the Juvenile Offenders' Act and the Criminal Justice Act, giving magistrates power to convict summarily in certain cases, is seen in a reduction in 1858 to 17,855 committals for trial by ordinary process at sessions and assizes. This is the lowest point reached in the whole period under review. The convictions in 1844 were 71 per cent; in 1855, 76 per cent; and in 1858, 74 per cent. The proportion of the sexes in the committals was as follows:—1844, males 81½ per cent; females, 18½ per cent; 1855, males, 77 per cent, females, 23 per cent; 1858, males, 78 per cent; females, 22 per cent. In Scotland 1848 was also the worst year, but the number of committals in 1858 was greater than in 1844, the operation of the Acts already mentioned being limited to England and Wales. The totals were, in 1844, 3575, and in 1858 3782—the convictions being 77 and 75 per cent, respectively, and the proportion of female committals 26 and 27 respectively. The decrease of crime in Ireland is very remarkable—the total committals having fallen from 41,989 in 1849 to 6508 in 1858. Another extraordinary feature in the returns for Ireland is the small proportion the convictions have uniformly borne to the committals—the percentage having been only 41 in 1844, 47 in 1848, 58 in 1852, 57 in 1855, and 52 in 1858. It will be seen, however, that even in this respect the administration of justice in Ireland has improved, greater care being probably now taken with regard to the commitments, while juries give a fairer consideration to the cases before them. The proportion of the sexes in 1844 was 69 males committed to 31 women; in 1858 68 men to 34 women. Crime, unhappily, seems, therefore, to be on the increase among the female sex.

THE TRIAL OF MR. SMETHURST.

We depart, advisedly, from the universal example of our contemporaries, who give the unfortunate man just tried for poisoning a degree to which he is not entitled, and style him "Dr. Smethurst." This little correction may be of some importance, for the title of Doctor of Medicine carries with it, popularly, an idea of more profound medical knowledge than it is probable Mr. Smethurst possessed. The presumption of deep medical learning happens to have been at the base of the accusation against the prisoner. Moreover, some of the witnesses against him have, in like manner, received spurious titles, and these additions may not unnaturally have given undeserved weight to their testimony. Let us start by calling persons correctly by their names as far as we can, if we wish to be right.

Mr. Smethurst, then, has been tried for the wilful murder of Miss Banks at Richmond, and has been found guilty. The trial lasted five days, and was the second to which the prisoner had been subjected. The first broke down through the sudden illness of a jurymen, upon whom the disgraceful state of the chief court of criminal procedure in the kingdom produced the effect which might have been expected. The second nearly failed from the same cause. We can build and ventilate theatres and concert rooms, but the state of our courts of justice is such as to make strong men faint away like hysterical girls.

It appears that the prisoner states his age at forty-eight, and he certainly does not appear older. There are those, however, who say that his age is fifty-four. He has a wife living, an old lady of seventy-four, long bedridden. The two were married in 1828, when, as Mr. Smethurst was then twenty-three and the lady forty-three, the disparity between their ages may not have been so painful as it must have been while one flourished and the other decayed. An imprudent marriage, certainly. The result might have been foretold. Mr. Smethurst bestowed his spare affection upon a more youthful personage. This personage was Miss Banks. Miss Banks was not, however, so lost to self-respect as to consent unconditionally to become a married man's paramour. The form of marriage, in their case worthless, as both knew, must be gone through. True, this was bigamy, and here we have Smethurst committing a crime against the law. But even in law the *gravamen* of the charge of bigamy is the deceit practised on the second wife. In this case deceit there was none. Morally, if Mr. Smethurst and Miss Banks chose to live together as man and wife, the solemnisation or absence of a worthless marriage added little to the offence. It was reasonably to be expected that bedridden, aged Mrs. Smethurst, who knew and acquiesced in the arrangement, would not last long, and then Mr. Smethurst might marry Miss Banks in a proper way. There would be no reason for his declining to do so, for she had property,

while he had little or none, and, besides, she would, in case of his refusal, hold in her hands the alternative of a prosecution for bigamy.

It will be already perceived that we are stating the case favourably to the unhappy prisoner. We may as well, therefore, at once state the sincere, conscientious conviction that we believe Smethurst entirely innocent of the crime for which he is to be hanged. And this conviction was arrived at, in spite of as strong prejudice as appears to have been generally entertained, by a careful examination and collation of the evidence as it *is*. The mere reader of the reports from day to day could scarcely fail of arriving at the opposite conclusion.

The unfortunate lady whose death formed the object of inquiry was attended from the 3rd of April last until her death on the 3rd of May by Mr. Julius, of Richmond, assisted by his partner, Mr. Bird—*"Dr. Julius, or 'Dr.' Bird, we believe, although so described in every published report of the trial. If we are wrong we submit to correction. The symptoms exhibited by the patient were retching and diarrhoea. Previously to the 28th of April the prisoner himself attended her, and it was he who called in Mr. Julius. On the 29th of April the sister of Miss Banks called upon her, in consequence of a written request sent to her by the prisoner. When the sister saw the deceased, the deceased (we quote the sister's own words) 'appeared rather agitated, and said that, if I would only be quiet, it would be all right.'*" The inference from this piece of evidence, given for the prosecution, is inevitable.

Two days after this visit Dr. Todd, a physician, is called in to assist Mr. Julius. The deceased must therefore have been getting worse. What more natural than that Smethurst should have mentioned to Mr. Julius the now proved fact of the patient's excitement at her sister's visit? What more commonplace remark for Julius to make, that, if such was the effect, the sister had better keep away? And Julius admits that such a conversation might have taken place. Yet, the fact of Smethurst having written to the sister stating such to have been the case is taken as the most condemning evidence against him.

Well, Mr. Smethurst has called in the aid of Mr. Julius. Let us see how this eminent medical authority, on whose testimony a man is to be hanged, treats a woman afflicted with disorder of the bowels. In the first place, be it observed, the lady was *envenomed*, a fact which Mr. Julius swears he did not know until the *post-mortem* examination. However, when known, this fact did not alter his opinion of the case. And now, let us recount perhaps to the amazement of some readers, the medicines employed by the firm of Julius and Bird, and sworn to as having been administered by them to this sick lady. Chaik mixture, catechu, ipecacuanha, camphor, diluted sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol, bismuth (bismuth is sworn to as containing arsenic), acetate of lead (sugar of lead), nitrate of silver (lunar caustic), opium, and sulphate of copper. The last is commonly known as blue vitriol, and may be made by dissolving a penny piece in oil of vitriol by any reader curious as to the flavor. Under this mild treatment an astounding result took place. The lady grew worse, and even began to betray symptoms of slow mineral poisoning. In one of her evacuations, moreover, the slightest trace of arsenic is found. And this is the only evidence of poison in the whole case.

Next witness is a Mr. Caudle, assistant to Messrs. Julius and Bird. He swears, in the face of his employers' evidence, that he made up the whole of the medicines prescribed for the deceased, and that there was no arsenic or antimony in any of them. Also that hydrate of magnesia is an antidote for arsenic. Now, we are informed that the use of hydrate of magnesia, as such an antidote, has been long exploded in practice in favour of a more modern discovery.

Then comes Mr. Barwell, M.R.C.S., who, after swearing that he could not reconcile the symptoms as the result of any disease, which he was acquainted, qualifies this on cross-examination by "excluding dysentery." Dr. Todd believes that her death was occasioned by the administration of some irritant poison, as arsenic, antimony, or corrosive sublimate. "The only disease that could in any way account for the symptoms would be acute dysentery."

Dr. Bizzard never in his life attended a patient who died from slow arsenical poisoning, and refers the symptoms to some irritant substance. So does Dr. Babington, who admits that in cases of pregnancy there is sometimes violent purging and sickness. Dr. Copland gives "similar evidence." What might be the effect of the system of Messrs. Julius and Bird, who knew nothing of the pregnancy, and treated the disorder with irritant minerals, is not given in evidence. But Mrs. Banks died.

Dr. Taylor appears in the box. He has received a bottle containing chlorate of potass, tested it with copper wire, and discovered arsenic. Admits that on subsequent examination he found he had made a sad blunder, as the arsenic was in the copper wire, and therefore put in by himself. On the preliminary examination this learned gentleman talked of the chlorate of potass as "the noxious agent which was badling" his experiment. Now, it seems there was *nothing else*; and chlorate of potass happens to be the agent ordinarily used in testing arsenic in combination with organic matter. The latter is taken up by the chlorate, and the precipitate is the matter to be tested. Says that chlorate of potass is used for making percussion-caps or any explosive mixture. Percussion-caps are filled with fulminating mercury, but the jury get a vague notion of an explosive compound inside Miss Banks, whereas the chlorate can only be exploded by friction with a trititative admixture, as loaf sugar, then only partially; or deflagrated by combination with sulphuric acid. Also that the action of the chlorate would be to carry off poison by acting on the kidneys. Now, this Dr. Taylor's part is the purest hypothesis, only put into his imagination by the discovery of the combination of arsenic and chlorate formed by himself in a blunder.

For the defence Dr. Richardson deposes to having poisoned a dog by the chlorate and arsenic, and to having subsequently discovered arsenic in the liver, lungs, heart, and spleen of the animal. With Dr. Taylor it was mere theory, with Dr. Richardson there was actual experiment. Dr. Taylor admits the presence of arsenic in bismuth. "No arsenic was found in the body of the deceased."

Let us here remark that it is not pretended to be shown that Smethurst ever administered chlorate of potass to the deceased at all. The bottled solution found is accounted for in the defence. Smethurst had applied to a dentist (a witness) for a remedy for foul breath, and had been directed to use chlorate of potass, a perfectly harmless salt. No purchase or possession of arsenic, antimony, or other mineral poison was attempted to be proved against the prisoner, who had been for some time out of medical practice and did not keep a laboratory.

While Mr. Julius was attending the deceased, it was thought proper to give Smethurst in charge for attempted poisoning. The magistrate who heard the accusation discharged the prisoner on his own recognisances.

When the lady's case was hopeless, on the 30th of April, Smethurst called in an attorney to make her will in his (the prisoner's) favour. This will was executed in her maiden name. It will be seen that this fact is important. The deceased had lent £1740 to Mr. Tarte. On the other hand, she had a life interest of £150 a year, which of course died with her. While she lived, Smethurst received her dividends. This interest could, had she lived, been sold for his benefit, in which case he would have had the benefit of both. Why, therefore, should he poison her?

Of Mr. Rogers (Professor of Chemistry), of Dr. Thudicomb, of Dr. F. C. Webb, of Dr. Girdwood, Mr. Edwards (surgeon), and Dr. Tyler Smith, we have only space to say that their evidence was for the prisoner, and in favour of the theory that deceased died of acute dysentery. We have neither room in these columns nor, as we hope, occasion to dwell upon what was professedly in prisoner's favour. If the evidence for the prosecution is defective and obviously wrong there can be no need to dilate on the defence. We must hasten to the summing up of the Judge, the Lord Chief Baron, Sir Frederick Pollock.

And this was fearfully adverse to the prisoner. Exclusive of the medical and chemical testimony, into which we have already entered, and of the real bearings of which, beyond the mere aural fugitive learning of the hour, we believe, with all due respect, the learned Judge knew nothing, the most telling points were three:—

1. Prisoner had introduced "a strange attorney" to the bedside of the dying woman. Now, every attorney in moderate practice is constantly taken to the bedside of dying persons previously unknown to him. It is an ordinary affair. It is not every testator who knows personally an attorney who can be called in at a moment's notice to make a will. This "strange attorney" is described by the Judge as having been "thrust in"—expressions conveying the idea that a low pettifogger was caught, pushed in by the neck, and commanded to make a will. But the strange attorney was Mr. Senior, of Richmond, whose agents are Messrs. Surr and Gribble, one of the most respectable firms in the metropolis, and whose names are sufficient guarantee for the honour of any professional gentleman for whom they may transact business.

2. That the prisoner misled Mr. Senior by a falsehood in directing the will to be prepared for Miss Banks as a spinster. This is no falsehood at all, but strict legal truth. The marriage was, *ab initio*, null. For all legal purposes Miss B. was a spinster. Else, what need for a will at all?

3. That "she was allowed to pass into the other world without one word of religious consolation, as if she had been a beggar and an unbeliever in a heathen land." Here the learned Judge, overcome by his own pathos, gave way to his emotions. So that Smethurst, having been blamed for thrusting in a "strange attorney," is to be hanged for not having thrust in a strange parson. Now, having some experience of middle-class life, it cannot be doubted that thousands of devout Christians would never think of calling in a clergyman to their deathbed sides. What need to a Christian, firm in the conviction of a lifetime, to call in a minister of the gospel to assure him of his truth? We think it must be a weak, doubting soul indeed who would be much comforted by such spiritual consolation as a clerical gentleman could afford to him, moribund. It is true, the custom does prevail where the Baron then happened to be; but the manner of death in that locality is altogether exceptional. Yet this absence of the clergyman—a fact not even hinted at in the prosecution—was brought forward by the Lord Chief Baron as an aggravation against a prisoner on trial for his life.

So Smethurst was found guilty; and when called on to receive sentence made a speech, which, for clear, concise force, far excelled that of the eloquent and accomplished Serjeant Parry, his counsel. Had he wished to be relieved from his matrimonial difficulty, why not poison his wife? That would indeed have been a relief. But the real innumerable—the unloved wife of this most coldblooded poisoner—has reached the age of seventy-four, and lives still. After the sentence Smethurst exclaimed: "I declare Dr. Julius to be my murderer. I declare I am innocent before God!"

In the *Times* of Wednesday appeared a letter from Dr. Rodgers formerly lecturer on chemistry at the St. George's School of Anatomy and Medicine. Dr. Rodgers says:—

In the recent trial of Dr. Smethurst errors of the greatest importance, and more or less apparent, have gained publicity. In consequence of the weight attached to them by the Lord Chief Baron Pollock in his charge to the jury their correction has become a matter of the utmost necessity.

The most prominent of these errors is the statement given in evidence by Professor Brande, that it is a new fact in chemistry that chlorate of potash (meaning the mixture of hydrochloric acid and chlorate of potash) dissolves copper, and that he should have committed the same blunder as that acknowledged by Professor Taylor. This statement is untrue, and requires correction; the more so as the learned Judge urged this as a strong point on the consideration of the jury; and, again, I emphatically repeat not true, for this mixture has long been known as one of the most powerful solvents, actually used to dissolve and separate copper from its ores; and, so far from presenting obstacles to the detection of arsenic, it affords the means, as was discovered by Drs. Fresenius and Von Babo, of separating arsenic from the blood organs and tissues of the body (vide *Lancet*, vol. i. for the year 1844). Indeed, by a slight modification of their process, I have been enabled in a great number of instances to separate the minutest trace of many metallic poisons in numerous cases which I have been called upon by coroners to decide.

It should also be known that the presence of chlorate of potash interferes in no way with the action of the tests by which the presence of arsenic in an aqueous solution can be most incontestably proved; and that Reinsch's process in itself is not a test, but is only a method by which arsenic can be separated from matters that do not admit of the conclusive application of the proper tests.

Again, Reinsch's process was represented as the most efficient known, but it is ill-adapted where the blood organs and tissues form the subjects of analysis, and is totally inapplicable in all cases unless copper, perfectly free from arsenic, be employed. I draw particular attention to the importance of using perfectly pure copper, as Dr. Taylor in evidence emphatically expressed his determination to use the same copper gauze (which he has himself found to contain arsenic) in any future analysis he may be called upon to make where chlorate of potash is not present.

The Doctor goes on to say that "it is certain that cases similar to that of Isabella Banks have occurred in the practice of our most celebrated accoucheurs from natural causes," and that "in no other case has poison been found in the blood without, on examination, its presence being most satisfactorily demonstrated also in the various organs and tissues."

"One of the Jury" writes as follows:—

In order to remove any impression that may exist in the minds of the public with respect of the summing up of the Judge having a tendency to influence the minds of the jury, I beg to inform you that at the close of the defence, and before the Judge commenced his summing up, eleven of the jury were convinced upon the evidence adduced of the prisoner's guilt, and the remarks of the Judge confirmed their opinions.

LAW AND CRIME

A PERSON, whether innocent or guilty, who has the misfortune to be charged with a great crime, stands some reasonable chance of justice if tried in England. Even should he happen, as in the Smethurst case, to be convicted in direct opposition to the bearings of the evidence, the eyes of the public are upon his case, and he finds ready sympathy and earnest assistance. But it is far otherwise with the unlucky person who may happen to commit an offence thoroughly unimportant and interesting to society. His conviction may hinge upon the merest thread; his punishment will certainly depend upon the mere accidents of the to and fro of his Judge; and after he has been "removed by the gaoler" the public will

probably know no more about the matter than if it had occurred in Seringapatam. The experience of years, gained both by study of the journals and attendance at the Courts, has shown clearly that the vast majority of cases of gross injustice are never reported at all. Rustics arraigned before obstinate squires and hard featured reverends are found guilty without evidence, and punished without mercy, throughout the country, nearly every day in the year. At the Criminal Courts the uninteresting prisoner is entirely in the Judge's hands, and the mind of the Judge, as we have seen repeatedly, is, under such circumstances, just as fallible as would be that of any ordinary person called upon to decide a question in which he has not a grain of interest one way or the other. Then, as to the punishment, the variances are frightful. By what principle they can possibly be governed is a problem which no human sagacity can solve. The Judge looks at the prisoner, and forms a certain degree of sympathy or repugnance which may govern the sentence. The Judge may be hungry, weary, and savage—and woe to the prisoner! The Judge may have just taken his chop, with an extraglass of sherry, as he seemed to need it, and returns to Court regarding the errors of frail fellow-mortals with the most benignant compassion. The Judge may be aesthetic and detest ugly people, or he may be himself horribly ugly, and envy a prisoner's good looks. He may have quarrelled with his wife at breakfast, received news of a legacy, caught cold in a draught, or been praised in the *Times*. Any way, the result will matter little to any one except the prisoner at the bar. Just now and then, however, the press will notice cases of a very awkward kind, and in a very unpleasant way. There has been enmity now for some time past between the journals and Mr. Baron Bramwell. The wit of the contest, of course, has been all on one side. Readers may remember that we have already reported a case in which a "non-juror" was reminded by the learned Baron that his impression as to the taking of oaths being forbidden by Scripture was that of a wrong-headed minority, the majority of sensible people being of a different opinion. A shrewd member of the Society of Friends hereupon writes to the *Star* that, had the learned Baron existed at the time of the Deluge, he would, if holding such respect for a majority, certainly never have gone into the Ark with the minority under Noah. On Mr. Baron Bramwell's circuit, one morning, half the leading counsel are discovered to be absent, having deserted their clients and their causes to attend some lucrative lunacy commission, or something of the kind, in the vicinity. Attorneys are in despair, and one of them begs to be allowed in the absence of his counsel to conduct his client's case. Mr. Baron Bramwell, however, will not hear of such a thing, but insists on proceeding with the business of the Court. But as it is soon found that the business of the Court cannot proceed, and that, therefore, the matter affects not merely the interests of the suitors, but the personal convenience of the Baron, the Baron goes into a pet and denounces the "trick, mistake, or whatever it may be." The honourable Bar, returning to duty, have then a right to be cross with the Baron, whose observations are duly chronicled in the journals. So the Baron, to pacify his enraged brethren, hopes they will not mind the "rubbish" people write in the papers. The *Times* replies that the rubbish consisted of the learned Baron's own words, and utterly demolishes him in a leader in which allusion is made to the present "awful dearth" of legal talent, as exemplified by the fact of "Bramwells" on the Bench. Mr. Baron cannot contend with the *Times*; and a few days afterwards the *Morning Star* again falls foul of him. The Baron, who has been scourged by the *Times*, has been ordering little boys to be whipped. A poor child, aged only thirteen, in a thoughtless moment set fire to a patch of furze, and, before it could be extinguished, burnt as much as eight, when dry, had been sold in the winter for two shillings. Another prisoner had just been sentenced to a month's imprisonment and two severe whippings. "As for you, Hellings, you shall have pretty much the same thing," said his Lordship, addressing the poor infant who gazed into his Lordship's face and "screamed frantically," as well he might; "you shall have a month's imprisonment and two good whippings." Poor little boy! "But," adds the *Star*, "that was not all. Five years in a reformatory formed part of the sentence." Now, really, this is almost going too far. Half skinning a child for a piece of boyish mischief no worse in result than breaking a window may be excusable in a Judge whose temper is so much tried as Baron Bramwell's must be from the continual adverse comments made upon him in his public capacity; but to deprive that child afterwards, throughout the most impressionable portion of his life, of all means of decent, respectable education, to force him to accept only that accorded to juvenile vagabonds and thieves, is quite another thing.

Here is another boy's case, which shows that the week has been unlucky to boys. Thomas O'Connor, also aged thirteen, is an orphan, under the "jurisdiction" of his uncle—as his uncle, termed in the report "a very respectable man," chooses to designate his own authority. Thomas is put out as an errand-boy, in which position he has probably not much chance of getting into good society, and falls into bad. Marked coppers are put into the leather-seller's till, and Thomas is pounced upon with 1s. 7d. of stolen marked coppers in his pocket. For this offence he might perhaps have received three months' imprisonment; but the very respectable man, his uncle, appears upon his hearing, and says that he would take it as a favour if his nephew might be placed in an establishment of the reformatory kind. Thomas thereupon gets "sound advice" from the magistrate, Mr. Bingham, and the very respectable uncle has his "favour" granted, inasmuch as the boy is sentenced to imprisonment for fourteen days, then to be sent on board a reformatory ship for four years, to the great relief of the very respectable man. The urchin is taken off by the gaoler, screaming—"Oh, uncle, I wish I had taken your advice! I know I have been a disgrace to you, do forgive me; don't desert me. Do, uncle, tell grandmother not to cry; and don't you cry; oh! don't. If I could get off I would never associate with such companions again."

THE MURDER BY AN AMERICAN MATE IN THE TYNE.—Moody, the American mate, against whom the coroner's jury had already returned a verdict of "wilful murder," has been committed for trial by the North Shields magistrates.

POLICE.

A LADY-KILLING SPOON.—It will be recollected that last week a lady applied to the Hon. G. C. Norton, at Lambeth, for advice respecting her husband, to whom she had not been then quite two months married, and whose name she had so far forgotten that she could not spell it, and had actually been obliged to go home to provide her with the marriage certificate to refresh her memory. The lady had represented that she had first met her husband at the St. James's Hall, at one of Bramwell's entertainments; that he represented himself as the son of a nobleman; and a captain in the army; made fierce love to her, and she should kill her or herself unless she consented to have him; and offered, with his hand, a carriage and £2000.

On Tuesday, when the usual night charges were disposed of, a person of slim, thin figure, shabby-genteel appearance, rather light complexion, meagre visage, with a thin, half-dressed moustache on the upper lip, and the other parts of the face both hairless and beardless, and eyes so light and devoid of the slightest spark of animation, and altogether of a most spoon-like appearance, was placed at the bar before the Hon. G. C. Norton, on a charge of intermarrying with Mrs. Jane Hayes, a widow lady, his former wife, Sophia, being still alive. Chief Clerk (to the prisoner). What is your name? Prisoner (in a thin, shrill voice).—William Marshall, sir. Chief Clerk.—Have you no other name than William Marshall? Is your name not Harrison? Prisoner.—No, sir; my name is William Denbigh Sloper Marshall.

The officer who apprehended the prisoner had proceeded to his residence accompanied by both his wives, and gave evidence that on seeing his first wife he seemed perfectly paralysed, and, dropping down on the couch by her side, was not able to utter a word. "I then told him Mrs. Hayes, his second wife, charged him with getting married to her while he had another wife living, and asked him if this was true, and he replied 'Yes; and he was very sorry for it, and that that he must be a great blackguard for acting so.' I then told him I should feel it to be my duty to take him to the station-house and charge him with the offence. I then took him into custody, and removed him to the station-house in Kennington-lane, and on the way he said he should not have got into a second marriage, but he was driven into it."

Mr. Norton.—Driven into it by whom? Police-man.—He did not say by whom, your Worship. At the station-house I searched him, and found on him a part of a screw of tobacco, a short clay taproom pipe, three halfpence, and a part of a newspaper containing the report of the application of his wife at this court.

The magistrate, after receiving the proof of both marriages, congratulated the second wife (his former applicant) on not having acted as she had intended doing—namely, going to Brighton and leaving her furniture, worth £300 or £400 to the prisoner.

Inspector Emmerson, of the P division, said he had become acquainted some time ago with the history of the prisoner, and wished to say that his real name was Sloper, and not Marshall nor Harrison, and was the illegitimate child of a female who subsequently married a man named Marshall. This person was a dealer in bottles, and was engaged in bottling ale and beer for different people.

Prisoner.—I beg your pardon, he was a wine merchant, and supplied Windsor Castle, Buckingham House, and the Pavilion, with wines and ales.

Mr. Norton.—And does the fact of your father or step-father supplying Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle justify you in assuming the term Honourable? (Laughter.)

Prisoner.—Perhaps not. Mr. Emmerson.—What I state, your Worship, is quite correct; and it is singular enough that on one occasion the prisoner went with his stepfather to bottle some ale at the house of a nobleman, and became so intimate with one of the young ladies that an elopement was arranged, and would in all probability have succeeded, had not one of the letters of the lady fallen into the hands of the prisoner's grandfather, who forwarded it to the nobleman, her father.

Prisoner.—Oh, how can you say all this? You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. Norton.—You are a nice person to moralise (Laughter.)

The Prisoner.—Very well, your Worship, it's not true. Mr. Norton.—Is it true that the prisoner has a third wife? Revell (the officer).—I can't say at present, sir; but it is strongly suspected. If your Worship remands the prisoner I shall be able to find out by the next examination.

The prisoner was removed for further evidence; and a more insignificant or snivelling prisoner never stood at, or was removed from, a bar of justice.

MRS. PRETTY'S REVENGE.—Anne, wife of William Pretty, coachpainter, of Gilbert-street, Hanover-square, was placed at the bar charged with being drunk and setting fire to the house.

Mr. Crawford, master tailor, of Queen-street, Grosvenor-square, said that at about two o'clock on Saturday morning he was aroused, and told that the above premises, of which he was landlord, was on fire. Upon his getting to the spot he found that the fire had been got under, and he was taken by a constable to a public-house to see if he could identify a woman, who he stated was there, having been dragged from the midst of the flames. She was in a state of insensibility, and after he had been and seen the house he gave her in charge for setting fire to it. On the way to the station she abused him.

A police-constable said that the husband of the prisoner was at present in the hospital, having suffered very severely from the burns he had received.

Mr. Beadon inquired whether the husband was in the house at the time of the fire.

The constable replied that he was, and that he was very much burnt about the arms and face, and he now produced a certificate from the hospital stating that, in consequence of the burns, he was unable to attend.

Sergeant Martin, S.C., deposed to being called to the fire, and the prisoner was left in his charge whilst the constable went up stairs to see the extent of the fire along with the landlord. After she was in his charge, she said she and her husband had had a few words, when a scuffle ensued, and the candle was knocked on the floor and set fire to the wainscoting. Afterwards she said she had had it brewing for a month, and if she was let go she would do it again, at the same time stamping her foot on the ground.

Henry Grubb, who lived in the same house, and who stated that at about two on Sunday morning he heard a cracking, and upon his going into the yard to see what it was he saw the second-floor window in flames. He gave the alarm of fire, and proceeded up stairs and broke the door open, when he discovered the prisoner in the midst of the fire, and her husband on the bed. He at once pulled her out, her husband was also got out, and witness rescued some children from the next room.

A large dead table and about half a dozen chairs were piled up in a corner at the foot of the bed, and were all in flames. The fire was confined to the prisoner's room, but had he gone to bed the house might have been burnt down.

Mr. Beadon, as the husband would not be able to leave the hospital for a few days, remanded the case till Monday next.

THE AFRICAN SAVAGE NUISANCE AGAIN.—A tall, powerful young black fellow, a native of Central Africa, and whose face was tattooed as the distinctive mark of his tribe, was placed at the bar, before Mr. Beadon, charged with the following act of cannibalism. He gave his name as Nicolas Toib, aged twenty-two. He could speak five or six languages, and it was stated that he had been a servant to a Russian prince.

Mr. Good, landlord of the Marlborough Head, said that on Saturday night the prisoner entered, called for something to drink, and was supplied. After he had been in the place a short time he commenced making a great noise. He was requested to desist, when in a very impudent manner he placed his fingers to his nose, and said

he could lick five Englishmen. Witness begged of him to be quiet, as his wife was very ill upstairs. A man named Cooper endeavoured to persuade him to go away. Prisoner immediately seized hold of Cooper, and threw him against the door, breaking the panel in, and whilst on the ground, he hit his ear, after which he threw him across a mahogany table, and broke it. Witness went to rescue Cooper, when the prisoner caught him by the arm, and severely hit him in two places.

Henry Cooper, a baker, residing at 3, Bentinck-street, stated that he was in the house, as described by the last witness, when the prisoner, who was in liquor, took hold of him by the waist, and threw him with great force against the door, completely smashing the panel in. Whilst he was lying on the ground the prisoner rushed upon him in a very savage manner, caught hold of his ear in his mouth, and bit a piece off, which it is supposed he must have swallowed, as a most minute search was made in the room and it could not be found. Upon witness getting on his feet he was again seized by the waist by the prisoner, and thrown with such tremendous violence against the table as to smash it in two. He then made another attempt to get his other ear into his mouth, but failing in this he seized him by the neck with his teeth, and inflicted a severe wound; and it was only through assistance that he was got away from any further violence.

This last witness appeared to be suffering great pain from the loss of part of his ear, which was thickly strapped with adhesive plaster, as well as from the wound in the neck, and he had been unable to attend work through it.

Prisoner, in reply to the charge, said, in French, that he did not remember it.

Mr. Beadon said that he would make him remember it. When a person was brought before him for an offence of this sort he would punish him in a severe manner. He must pay a penalty of £5 for the assault upon Cooper, and another penalty of £5 for the assault upon Mr. Good. In default of such payments he must undergo two separate months' hard labour for each offence.

SCANDALOUS ASSAULTS.—A thick-set, savage-looking young fellow was brought before Mr. D'Eyncourt, on a remand, charged with three assaults.

Mr. Robert Preece, a tradesman in the East-road, City-road, said.—On the afternoon of Tuesday last I had occasion to call at St. Luke's Workhouse, and, after a brief stay, got into my chair and drove off. Suddenly I received several sharp blows in my back, and, turning, perceived the defendant clinging to the vehicle with one hand, while he struck me with the other. Astonished, I stopped and demanded the occasion of such misconduct; upon which he darted to the horse, clinging tenaciously to the bridle, and called out that I owed him some money. Perceiving he was the worse for liquor, I mildly endeavoured to persuade him to relax his hold; but he refused, and assailed me in most gross terms, the horse rearing and plunging, to the danger of a fast increasing crowd. Several persons interfered, and one omnibus driver endeavoured to "pole" the fellow; but he would not let go, and was finally struck to the ground by repeated blows, while one gentleman beat his hands with the butt end of a whip. Free by these means, I drove sharply off, but did not proceed far when a shout from behind told me I was again in danger, and I found defendant within a few yards of the chaise. I then rapidly made my way towards the station-house; but he intercepted me by a nearer cut, and would have again made fast his hold had he not, fortunately, run into the arms of a police-constable.

Alfred Belcher, a youth, who even now appeared to view the defendant with alarm, stated that, shortly previous to the last occurrence, he was accosted by him, but in this instance he declared that he owed witness five shillings, and actually offered it, but, meeting with a denial, knocked him down, and savagely kicked him about the legs, injuring him considerably, and tearing his clothes, after which he ran off.

The third complainant, Mr. John Jecks, who had manifestly received severe blows on the face, deposed to having been attacked by defendant without a word having been spoken. He also was brutally kicked and struck about the head.

Sergeant Sturgeon, N division, who took charge of the ruffian, mentioned that the whole line of road on which these assaults were committed was a scene of confusion and terror, several other wayfarers having been similarly attacked.

The defendant, whose right name is George Hedge, is a native of Hertfordshire, and got employment by attending the hay and straw carts to London. It had been ascertained that he was perfectly right in his mind, but notorious for committing offences of this character when a little in liquor.

The defendant's answer to the charge was a dogged "I don't know anything about it;" and Mr. D'Eyncourt allowed him eighteen weeks to recollect, by sending him for that term, with hard labour, to the House of Correction, in the event of his inability to pay a fine of 50s. for each assault.

LAMENTABLE AFFAIR.—Police-constable Frederick Wright, 317 V, was charged with having caused the death of a brother constable, named Randal.

The evidence completely failed to sustain the charge against the accused. Some of the Chelsea subdivision off duty were in the clothes-room at the station-house there, when the deceased entered in a most excited state, challenged any one to fight, and not only threw a waistcoat at the deceased, but thrust his fist in his face. Some blows were then exchanged between them, and no doubt would have continued, but for the proper interference of Samuel Pope, 311 B, who, going between, separated them, pulling one away on one side, and the other on another, when the deceased slipped—clearly not from the effect of any blow being given at that moment by the accused—and falling upon the bars of the grate, expired, as it seemed, immediately, every attention being paid to him by the men present, who were for a time unconscious of his death.

Mr. Arnold liberated the accused upon his own recognisance of £40 to appear again in a week.

TRESPASSING UPON A RAILWAY.—Henry Muller, a German, aged thirty, was brought before Mr. Selfe, charged with trespassing on the North London Railway between Stepney and Bow, and with being drunk and disorderly.

It appeared from the evidence of Samuel Quested, a guard employed upon the railway, that he was in charge of a down train on its way from Stepney to Bow on Sunday night about ten o'clock, and about halfway between the two places he saw the prisoner on a siding where trucks were placed. The prisoner hurriedly crossed the line in front of the engine and train, and it was a miracle he was not killed and cut to pieces. He stopped the train, which passed the prisoner, and he went back and found him staggering about the up line. He seized him, put him into a truck, and conveyed him to the Bow station. A train passed over the up line of rails three minutes after he seized the prisoner, and nothing could have saved him from death and mutilation if he had remained there.

Mr. Ellis, travelling superintendent on the North London line, said the passengers in the train were much alarmed when the occurrence related by the last witness took place. The prisoner was very drunk and violent.

Mr. Selfe.—How did he get upon the line? The railway is upon arches at the place you describe.

Mr. Ellis.—I don't know, indeed, sir; he had a very marvellous escape.

The prisoner in defence said he was a sugar-baker, and was very drunk indeed on Sunday night through drinking two glasses of rum, a glass of beer, and some hook.

Mr. Selfe.—You ought to be thankful you were not killed. It is a very sad thing for you to get drunk, and put your life in danger. I fine you 20s. for unlawfully trespassing upon the railway.

